



The Dragon Scoop

November 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”**

Pledge Ingathering

On Sunday November 24 during the worship service we will have an ingathering of our 2014 financial pledges to St. George. We will have an opportunity to bring our pledges forward to the altar and we will bless them with a prayer.

*gifts you have entrusted to us. We ask you to bless and multiply these humble offerings. Guide us, your faithful stewards, as we use these gifts to serve and honor you, so that all may flourish in the life abundant you came to give.
 Amen*

We give thanks to you, generous God, for your ongoing faithfulness to us, your stewards. You placed us in your garden to tend, toil and care for your creation. It is our highest privilege to use the gifts that have been entrusted to us—relationships and resources—to bring about your dream of life abundant for all. With humility and gratitude, we offer these pledges, as a token of our gratitude for your faithfulness and for all the

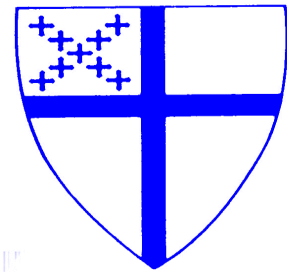
After worship we will celebrate together with a potluck. Please sign up for bringing something on the easel in the parish hall. Together let us rejoice with thanksgiving for all of the blessings of this life.

**Now thank we
 all our God**



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Church Mice



We have Episcopal Shields available for your vehicle.

Do you expect anyone to know Jesus if you are afraid to show or tell them? Don't allow fear to paralyze you. Faith requires taking risks. Use your *time, treasures, and talents.*

~ Jean Bowden

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Rector's Letter



Life as we know it in nature is preparing to enter into a deep rest. The falling leaves around us signal that the yawning sleep of winter is upon us. The work of our warmer months is done and now it is time to pause. And we who are created in God's Holy Image like the natural world are called to rest.

Holy Scripture begins with the book of Genesis by telling us how important rest is. God models it for us. "And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done."

So why should we pause, why should we rest? How do we define rest?

When we rest we have a chance to find peace of mind and spirit, in resting we are **restored**. I am particularly drawn to the definition of a rest in music. A rest in musical notation is a rhythmic silence in the music. It doesn't mean that the music stops but the sound continues through the silence. Silence and sound together make the music.

When we rest we open up a space for God. We create room for God to dwell within us. When we rest our music doesn't stop but it becomes part of the melody which we make with God.

Consider this verse from the prophet Isaiah.

"For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength."

I invite you into a more conscious season of interior decorating. As you consider Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas put up your decorations, enjoy what you see and experience around you. Take part in the holiday cheer and also take time to rest. Create within you a place for God to dwell.

When you come to church and take part in the ministry here think and act likewise knowing also that this too is the sanctuary of the Lord, a holy place, a place of making divine music, a place of rest.

Be inspired with these ancient words given to us from Isaiah.

*"Heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool;
what is the house
that you would build for me,
and what is my resting-place?"*

Blessings,
Rev JoAnne



Senior Warden's Report

We are in the time of the year when we really should think more about stewardship; but we should actually think about the stewardship of the giving of time, talent, and treasure all year long. When it comes to making that weekly pledge out for the Church, we should all reflect on the past period since we last gave, whether it be a week, month or year, and say a little prayer to express our gratitude for all that we have and all that has been accomplished.

I have been hearing some people speak of the fact that we are extinguishing our financial resources. It is true that the money that the Church acquired from the house and property sale across the street from St. George is decreasing, but we need to remember what the purpose of that money was. About six years ago, the Vestry decided to sell the house to raise money to invest in a permanent rector. When the Church was in a period of turmoil with its leadership, it seemed to be the thing to do.

After going through the process of procuring a new full-time rector, we have been using that money that was set aside to expand our congregation to

keep the Church solvent. We are at the time and place that we need to step up and start doing for ourselves. We now have a permanent priest who is looking forward to building the Church into a thriving spiritual community but she cannot do it alone. We all need to step up and do our part to make St. George a great church again.

I want to thank Jewell Gates, Nancy Baum, Mik Carlson, and Donna Litherland for spearheading the October Harvest Festival and making it a great success. There was great food provided by Chef Diane Clerihue, a great silent auction, and great conversation with new acquaintances. Thank you to all.

Respectfully,
Jim Eddy



Prayer Group

Our Tuesday morning prayer group has started a new book. We are committed to our ongoing Christian formation through study, discussion, and prayer. Our new book is *8 Habits of Love: Overcome Fear and Transform Your Life*, written by The Rev. Ed Bacon Rector of All Saint's Episcopal Church in Pasadena, California.

This is a spiritual guidebook teaching how to live through love and connection, not fear and isolation. Reverend Bacon believes that every person can live a full and creative life if they can learn to move through troubling emotions such as fear, anger, and sadness to find the beloved within themselves.

Through illuminating stories and invaluable advice, *8 Habits of Love* reveals how we can create full and meaningful lives by developing simple yet

profound habits of generosity, stillness, truth, candor, play, forgiveness, compassion, and community. When put into practice in our daily lives, these important habits help us make the choice -- day after day -- to reject fear's hold and embrace, instead, the immense power and grace within all of us.

Please join us!



Prayer Requests

Oh, When the Saints?

All Saints' Day / All Faithful Departed

There is evidence that as early as the third century there was a festival of all martyrs, originally the only individuals recognized as saints. John Chrysostom, who died in 407 CE, wrote about a festival of All Saints occurring on the first Sunday after Pentecost in Constantinople during his episcopate.

The day has also been variously observed in the East on May 13 and on the Friday in Easter week. The present date of November 1 was established in England and Ireland in the ninth century, then moved to Europe and was adopted by Rome. Greek and Russian Orthodox Churches still observe the Sunday after Pentecost.

The Second Vatican Council expressed the meaning of the feast thus: "In the lives of those companions of ours who are more perfectly transformed into the image of Christ, God shows, vividly, to humanity his presence and his face. He speaks to us in them and offers us signs of his Kingdom"

In England and Ireland the feast was once known as All Hallows'. This explains the secular celebration on the "eve" of the feast—Hallowe'en or Hallow evening. All Saints' is a major feast on the Church calendar and takes precedence over any

other observance. It may also be observed on the first Sunday in November. It is one of the four days recommended in the Prayer Book for administration of Holy Baptism.

All Faithful Departed (formerly All Souls' Day) is a day to remember friends and loved ones who have gone before us in death—those we love and see no longer. They have not achieved a day on the calendar, but they are nevertheless saints and dear to our hearts and to the heart of God.

~ Betty Fretwell



FISH Food Pantry News

The Roseburg Food Pantry conducts three community food drives per year. St. George usually works with the First Presbyterian Church. Our volunteers take two-hour shifts at Albertson's soliciting shoppers to "buy a little extra" for the food bank.

The next food drive will be November 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. If you'd like to join us, please let me know. It's a good opportunity for our church to be out in the community meeting people and working with another church.

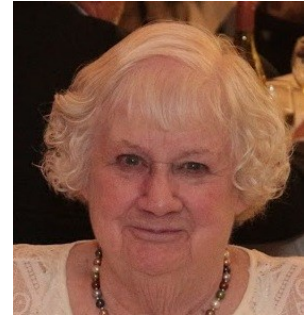
~ Mik Carlson
541-464-0634

Outreach

We had an Outreach Team meeting on October 9 which was very poorly attended. We need more people in our church community to step up and help in our projects. Outreach is to help in our neighborhood community. Pastoral Care is for help in our church community.

So let's use our *time* and *talent* to work in these teams or any of our other teams. Don't forget our Stewardship drive and give of your *treasures* to our church.

~ Donna Litherland, Junior Warden



Episcopal Church Women

We made \$1077.79 at our rummage sale! We so appreciate all of you who helped set up, take down, sort, price, were in attendance during the sale, and helped the Sunrise Enterprise fellas pack the truck and feed us. This is the teamwork that leads to success and satisfaction. When there is teamwork like we had, the final dollar amount doesn't seem so important. (Even though it really is important to the support we are able to give our church.)

In keeping with our desires to give back, we are sending \$150 to the Heifer Project to purchase a water pump and some baby chicks and rabbits. The water pump will help the people get water for their homes, and the animals will multiply and give them food and a possible source of future income. The fellowship which takes place in an endeavor like this is also rewarding. It is great to stand back and see everyone visiting after the work is done. This is one kind of stewardship. This is what it means to support your church.

Thank you from your ECW ladies of St. George!

**Teamwork—the
Key to Success**

At our October meeting, three ladies from Neighborworks Umpqua reported how they help residents purchase, remodel, or repair their homes. Their program allows the residents to contribute personally to their individual projects. It is not so much as a handout as it is a hand up.

Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 11:00. Bob Robins will present a program on his trip to Russia at the November meeting. Everyone is welcome. We try to finish around 1:00. Ladies freely supply lunch but we ask for a \$5 donation to enable us to continue to contribute to church and community needs.

~ BJ Hoffman



Harvest Dinner and Silent Auction

The Harvest Dinner was a great success. All 38 items of the Silent Auction were sold. This Outreach project could not have taken place without the help and generous donations given by the congregation.

I was so pleased with the warm, laughing camaraderie of the evening. It was a joyful affair. The committee had very positive feedback. We would like to hear comments and ideas for next year, both favorable and unfavorable, as we are making notes to leave for next year's planning team.

We are proud to report that around \$3000 dollars will be given to the Fish Pantry from St. George's Harvest Dinner. Mik Carlson will announce the exact amount when the check is delivered. There were 76 tickets sold.

~Donna Litherland



Photographer: Colin Benson

More photos on our Facebook page.

All In!

Today I am asking you to consider the 2014 pledge drive. I am challenged about how to make this appeal. Do I compare the concerns of the present with movies from the past? George Bailey played by Jimmy Stewart in "It's a Wonderful Life" defended a small and poorly capitalized savings and loan against the Scrooge-like Old Man Potter played by Lionel Barrymore. George Bailey defended the institution which indirectly defended the city. He defended the savings and loan through it all. While he was never wealthy, he was rich in spirit. The town was grateful for his service. George did what he felt was right even though it didn't completely make sense. It was an uphill battle, he was fighting against the odds, but he was determined to do what was right. He made a decision and went for it. Like George Bailey this is St. George's "It's a Wonderful Life" moment.

There is talk now about the viability of St. George, an institution established prior to the Civil War. Much has changed since the days our doors opened. Horse travel has surpassed the automobile. Smallpox and polio are cured. Pictures of the surface of Mars are now available to be seen and studied.

Today we also face these financial facts:

- We have a budget deficit
- We have real estate that is not collecting money
- We are not a money-making enterprise.
- Maintaining a church costs money



One choice to balance the ledger is to use a cost-minimization strategy. We spend the least amount of money necessary to keep St. George running. However, can Douglas County and Roseburg afford such a plan? Our county faces public health concerns, hunger, and poverty. Our county has so many issues that a strong, vibrant St. George is needed just as it was when it opened in 1860. I reject cost minimization. I believe this church needs to commit to "all in" strategy.

"All in" is we continue to spend the money to support current programs. "All in" is **all** our church members give 10% of their income to the church. "All in" is we continue to support FISH and combine with our sister churches to help our community. "All in" is we earnestly pray that what we are doing with our resources is serving God and His glory. Most importantly, "all in" means if we do run out of money, each of us can honestly say we served God and His people.

I am increasing my pledge for next year from 10% of my net income to 10% of my gross income. Today I ask you to join me. Living in worry about tomorrow is not any way to live. Let's go "all in!"

~John Miller, Vestry





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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 Sickle, 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

