

The Beacon

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
AUGUST 2018



From the Rector's Desk

Our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry calls himself the Episcopal Church's CEO, by which he means **C**hief **E**vangelism **O**fficer. Many people in the Episcopal Church don't like the word "evangelism." For them, the word connotes trying to get people to come to your church, or stuffing the gospel down people's throats, trying to convert people, and being intolerant of other people's faith.

But the word *evangelism* is from the biblical Greek *euangelion* (εὐαγγέλιον), which simply means "good news." And all evangelism is about is sharing the good news of God's love for us through Christ, or "sharing the joy of what it means to be in touch with God through Christ," as Episcopal priest Titus Presler puts it.

Specifically in the Episcopal Church, what is meant by "evangelism"? What does evangelism look like in our denomination? The understanding promoted by the Episcopal Church Center in New York is this: "Evangelism is the spiritual practice of seeking, naming, and celebrating Jesus' loving presence in everyone's stories, and then inviting people to form or deepen their own relationship with God in Christ."

So evangelism is a spiritual practice, like prayer, reading the Bible, and going to church; it's part of how we orient our lives towards God. It's first about listening to other people's faith stories and learning from them about how Jesus' loving presence is a part of their lives. It's then about sharing our own experience of God's love in our own lives, and inviting others to join us in deepening our relationship with God in Christ.

Bishop Curry did this in his sermon at the May wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. Bishop Curry wasn't trying to convert anyone or stuff Jesus down anyone's throat. He was simply sharing his joy in experiencing the love of God in

Christ. And as he shared his joy, he was implicitly inviting others to explore how God's love is at work in their lives.

Bishop Curry has called Episcopalians "God's Shy People." Many Episcopalians are uncomfortable talking about their faith. And talking about your faith is indeed hard to do if you have never thought about how God's love has been at work in your life. But if you spend some time on a regular basis reflecting on how, when, and where you have experienced Jesus' loving presence in your life, you will discover that "joy of what it means to be in touch with God through Christ." And you will find yourself more comfortably able both to listen to others' faith stories and to share your own.

You may recall the survey that our parishioner and seminarian Ryan Baker-Fones gave to St. Thomas parishioners last spring, asking you to indicate areas you would like to know more about in order to grow in your faith. Many of you (27.3%) indicated a desire to learn more about how to share your faith with others. In Vestry meetings, we have begun to talk about this very subject, and during the coming program year there will be opportunities for all of us to discover how we can share our stories of where we have experienced God's loving presence in our lives and how to listen to the faith stories of others. You don't have to call it "evangelism" if you don't want to. But as Christians, our principal call is to share God's love in Jesus Christ. And this call is reflected in the St. Thomas mission statement: "Give thanks and praise to our Lord and share His love."

Peace and many blessings,

Ann +



In Memoriam – Helen Emer

We are saddened to say that Helen Emer passed away on Monday the 30th. As many of you know, Helen had been suffering from cancer. In the end, Helen died peacefully in her sleep with her family by her side. Helen was a faithful St. Thomas parishioner and a dear friend to many of us. I know that you will keep Helen and all her family in your prayers.

A service of thanksgiving for Helen's life will be held at St. Thomas on August 11th at 3:00.

"Rest eternal grant to Helen, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon her."

Almighty God, Father of all mercies and giver of comfort: Deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn; that, casting all their care on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (BCP pg. 505)

This beautiful holy water stoup was hand-crafted by parishioner Jim Hall. Jim, a master woodworker, made this beautiful piece out of Purple Heart, Yellow Heart, Curly Maple and Alder.

He finished it in June and it was blessed and dedicated at the 10:00 a.m. service on June 17th. The stoup is mounted in the St. Thomas sanctuary on the pillar closest to the main entrance. A holy water stoup or font is a vessel containing holy water, which is generally placed near the entrance of a church, often at the base of a crucifix or religious representation. You often find holy water stoups in Catholic, Anglican/Episcopal, and even some Lutheran churches. A person who uses the stoup dips his/her hand into the water and then makes the sign of the Cross on his/her forehead and chest. Holy water is blessed by a priest or a deacon, and it is a reminder of our baptismal promises.



Happy Birthday August!

14 Len Calvert

19 Dan Paulson

Andy Andrist

23 Katrina Jensen

29 Dale Allore

Church Rummage Sale



Friday August 24th and Saturday, August 25th!

Many items, great prices, furniture, toys, tools, kitchen items, small appliances, seasonal items, collectibles – come and see what we have! There will also be a raffle for a small table, handcrafted by a local wrought iron artist, a bake sale and homemade crafts.



We Welcome New Ushers

Sandra and Duncan Murray, who schedule 10:00 ushers, are pleased to announce four newcomers to this ministry.

We welcome our four new ushers: Gerrie LaQuey, Anne VanDerveer and Judy and Larry Wilson. Let's all thank them for their dedication and commitment to usher at St. Thomas.

Please join us in thanking our "retiring" ushers for their years of service. They are: Ryan Baker-Fones and Jean and Steve Payne. Each deserves a round of applause for a job well done. Our dear Helen Emer was also one of our devoted ushers. She will be missed.

And special thanks go to our other ushers: Shirley Collard, Dan and John Paulson, Dave Phillippi and Burt and Sally Schwarz, who continue to be a blessing to our Usher ministry.

From the Senior Warden – August 2018

In view of the budget problems we have forecast for next year, I want to assure you that your Vestry is working diligently to make sure we have a balanced budget for next year. The following events are just a part of those endeavors.

By now I'm sure you are all aware of our current fund drive: the "2019 Challenge Grant". I am pleased to report that the drive is going quite well. Those of you who may not have yet had the opportunity to participate, should remember that this is a unique opportunity to double the value of any contribution that you are able to make. We do, of course, recognize that not all of you may be able to contribute at this time.

I also want to remind you of a couple of other fund raising activities coming up. Later this month we will be having our Rummage Sale. This is the perfect opportunity to clean out some of the things you really don't need any more and not only to bring additional income to the church, but also to, potentially, save some money on your taxes depending upon your individual situation. Sue and I have realized that this is a perfect way of cleaning out some of those things which we have not used in years and still have significant value.

Then in September, we will be hosting the "Mafia Murder Mystery Dinner." This should be a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to participate in an evening of fun. You'll be getting a lot more detailed information about this event over the next month or so.

Lastly, I want to thank each and every one of you who contribute so much to the continued life we enjoy here at St. Thomas. It is a constant reminder to me of the ways that God works in our lives.

Your Brother in Christ,
Paul Colvin

Around our Campus - Did you know?



Connection and collaboration happens all the time at GrassRoots between new garden participants and veterans, school children helping each other, college students working with interns. New skills are learned and friendships grow, often resulting in long-term relationships within the Garden.

For Master Gardeners, we share ideas and experiences as part of our project efforts and goals. Recently, many new and exciting collaborations have begun. Several people who were students of the Seed to Supper MGs have become very involved in the Garden. Seed to Supper graduate Sara Van Dyke continued coming to the Garden and soon became the inspiration and energy behind the Pollinator Educator group. Rick Ahrens a community member knowledgeable in entomology, who has been assisting Rebecca Shepard with Weed Walks, recently joined the Pollinator Educators. MG Susan Hirata has been teaching seeding and greenhouse skills among the GrassRoots Greenhouse Seeders and is now assisting with teaching Seed to Supper.

Jim Rundall, of Bees and Butterflies Event fame, is doing Pollinator Walks for school children. In addition, Jim is constantly looking for new, innovative ways to teach pruning concepts through Pruning Specialist classes. The Adaptive and Educational Garden orchestrated and tended by Lynn Negus and Joyce Hecker now includes the Gratitude Flower Garden as part of their expanded plans for on-going Pollinator Education and Events. Many people who participate in the Herb Walk stay for Rebecca's very popular Weed Walk; a young man who attended an Herb Walk is now taking Seed to Supper classes.

Master Gardeners often help start these connections, but many continue to grow and become a lasting contribution to the life of the Garden. Enthusiasm for learning and for each other has always been at the center of what happens at GrassRoots every day.

Summer Garden Hours are Tuesday thru Saturday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. GrassRoots Garden is located at 1465 Coburg Rd., across from Safeway and behind St. Thomas Episcopal Church. For more information contact Merry Bradley at 484-7144 or merrybradley@yahoo.com. Thanks for your caring and support!

What began as “A daydream” of Dr. Jan Moursund back in 1978, has become the only place in Lane County where adults with limited incomes can receive low cost, long term counseling.

As a lay reader at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Moursund was expected to have a “mission,” or project to help the community. Moursund completed her doctorate in school psychology, so it seemed natural that she volunteer to spend one afternoon a week offering counseling for free. From this simple idea, came Aslan Counseling Center.

At the suggestion of the church, Moursund and fellow counselor moved their operation into an old farmhouse located on the church property.

By the time the agency was incorporated in 1980, it had a formal policy of serving adults with limited incomes and a sliding scale fee. The agency had to work hard to get everything it needed. Furniture, phones, answering machines, carpeting, and a working bathroom were all donated.

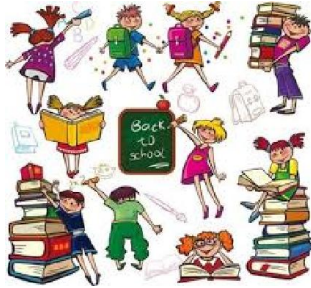
Moursund thinks Aslan succeeded because it filled a great need in the community – fulfilling, to some extent, its own destiny. “It was something about the time and climate,” she says. “It never required any push. A series of doors opened and we walked through.”

In April 1994, Aslan Counseling Center became the Center for Community Counseling.



www.st-thomaseugene.net

School Supplies Needed



The Outreach Ministry is collecting school supplies to help the children of families who are struggling. There is a large plastic container in the narthex for you to put your supplies when you bring them to the church. The suggested supplies needed are:

- Wide ruled notebook paper
- 3 ring spiral notebooks
- 24 count Crayola crayons
- Elmer's glue and glue sticks
- Fiskars scissors
- #2 Ticonderoga pencils
- 12" rulers
- Colored pencils
- Back packs
- Pink pearl erasers
- Water colors
- 3 tab folders
- Pencil sharpeners
- Kleenex (small personal size)



Mark your calendars for murder, mayhem and mystery!

Friday, September 14th,

St. Thomas will host a

"Mafia Murder Mystery" Dinner.

Tickets go on sale August 12th.

Invite your friends for a fun, fantastic and fabulous evening.



If you want to submit an article for the *Beacon*, you must get the information to me before the 25th of each month for it to go in the following month. Thank you,
Lindy Moore, Editor.
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