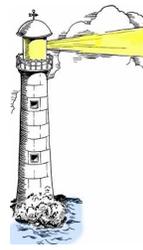


# The Beacon

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH



march 2018

Lindy Moore, Editor

## *From the Rector's Desk*

On Saturday, February 17, parishioners Lindy Moore and John and Holly Spruance joined me at a workshop given by *Project Resource: Oregon* at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Salem. Project Resource is a teaching and resource movement that assists philanthropy and raises funds needed in God's mission. Project Resource has as its focus stewardship, mission, and evangelism. As its literature states, "In Project Resource we are invited to believe that if the clergy and lay leaders of our diocese and our 70 churches could be taught how to raise money and how to invite new members, mission would be released to flourish. We seek to place in the hands of every congregant the power to motivate and transform resource development in their churches *so that ministry is in no way constricted by a lack of money or of congregational vitality*" (emphasis mine).

During the day-long workshop, Lindy, John, Holly, and I enjoyed stimulating presentations and small-group discussions about dynamic approaches to resource development and stewardship--which include the offering of time and talent as well as "treasure" or financial contributions. What became especially clear to all of us present is the importance of engaging the entire St. Thomas congregation in conversations about who/what God is calling St. Thomas to do and to be, both now and in the future.

Accordingly, after Easter the stewardship committee will be creating a series of opportunities for you all to participate in discernment and envisioning of God's call for St. Thomas. We will offer you a variety of possible formats to choose from to participate, so that each member of the congregation can participate in the way that feels most comfortable. You will be asked to respond to such questions as the following:

- Who are we as a parish?
- Why do we come to St. Thomas? What do we do at St. Thomas that would make Jesus say, "Wow!"?
- What feeds us? Where is the Holy Spirit at work at St. Thomas?
- What do we want in the future? What are our dreams for St. Thomas?

Once we have all your responses, the stewardship committee will communicate your ideas in a variety of formats throughout the rest of the year. Just as we desire full participation from the congregation in the discernment and envisioning process, we want to make sure that we fully and clearly communicate with you, the congregation! And your responses will be used to assist the stewardship committee as we develop our annual giving program for next fall.

So during the month of March, please spend some time thinking and praying about the questions listed above. Then in April, please be willing to share your responses with the stewardship committee. I tremendously appreciate your willingness to engage in this vital work of engagement and discernment.

Peace and many blessings,

*Ann* +

## Spiritual Series Recap

During the short Epiphany season, parishioner Lee Gaillard facilitated an Adult Forum at 9 a.m. on three Sundays bridging January and February. Four or five stalwarts helped make the discussions lively and fruitful. The series was titled "Infusing Our spirit: A Sharing Exploration" and explored various stimulating and provoking spiritual readings. In the first session, attendees discussed various novels, magazines, and non-fiction works they felt enriched their lives--from Steinbeck's *East of Eden* and MacLeish's drama *J.B.* to *The Christian Century*, Dillard's *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, and physicist/priest John Polkinghorne's *Quantum Physics and Theology*.

The second session focused on short stories (like Hawthorne's "The Birthmark") and, especially, poetry: e.e. Cummings's sonnet "I thank you, God...", Robert Frost's "Nature's first green is gold," Mary Oliver's "The Summer Day" and "Maybe," among others.

In the last session on February 4, we looked at Bible passages people had found particularly inspiring...from the King James version of the 23rd Psalm to more modern translations of Psalms 8 and 55. The Book of Ecclesiastes sparked some discussion, as did various beautiful and dynamic descriptions in the Book of Job. But some also found Job's story troubling in that God would allow such an upright and blameless man to be violently harassed at the hands of Satan; additionally, the significant cultural differences between today's world and aspects of the world of Leviticus also raised a number of questions. On the other hand, several participants pointed to portions of *The Book of Common Prayer* that they found brought solace--from God seen as a stronghold in anxious times in Psalm 31 to various prayers for peace and a moving Collect asking for courage for those about to go into battle.

Currently, Rector Ann Gaillard is leading a Wednesday evening Lenten series on the parables of Jesus. From the very beginning, human beings have loved to listen to stories--and Jesus loved to tell them. The parables are vivid, rich, arresting stories that make us think and teach us lessons about our relationship with God and one another. From talents to mustard seeds, from shepherds to Samaritans, Jesus used common reference points to teach important truths.

But the parables are filled with enough ambiguity--and enough room for interpretation--to keep us pondering long after we've heard or read them. Based on William Brosend's book *Conversations with Scripture: The Parables*, our study of the parables explores a variety of ways to interpret the parables, including historical, cultural, allegorical, and metaphorical approaches, while always keeping in mind the question: What does this parable tell me about God, Jesus, and the nature of Christian life?

\*\*\*\*\*



Bishop Michael Hanley visits on February 11th

## GrassRoot Garden Happenings!

A mild winter in the Willamette Valley has many home gardeners pondering seed catalogs earlier than usual. While colder weather still happened in February, it has been tempting to start planning a spring garden. Thinking ahead about amending soils and crops to plant is always fun and a good idea. The following tips might help get your list started.

Consider refreshing vegetable beds, raised beds and containers by gently spading in compost, well-aged manure and amendments. The following recipe for soil amendments is used at GrassRoots and can be adjusted to your needs.

Apply 2.5 quarts of each for the following bed dimensions:

Lime (sweetens soil) - 4 ft. x 10 ft. bed (about 40 sq. ft.)

Alfalfa meal (provides nitrogen for leaf formation) - 4 ft. x 10 ft. bed (about 40 sq. ft.)

Rock phosphate (for root and bloom formation) - 4 ft. x 13 ft. 4 in. bed (about 53 sq. ft.)

Green Sand (provides potassium for cell formation) - 4 ft. x 20 ft. bed (about 80 sq. ft.)

Apply lime first. It will look like powdered sugar on a pastry. Follow the others in order.

This formula is based on one from Solomon, S. *Growing Vegetables West of the Cascades*. Seattle: Sasquatch Books, 2007. Page 35.

With careful planning, succession planting can produce up to four harvests during growing year and offer a good way to try fresh, new vegetables. Many are best during the warm days and cool nights of fall. For early spring planting, choose the warmest beds you have with full sun and good drainage, and use fast-maturing varieties. With this plan, amend soil in March and again mid-season.

Seed cool weather crops indoors beginning February 1 to make starts for planting out around April 1. Quick season cabbage, chard, beets, peas, lettuce and spinach are always good crops to plant early giving you early harvest by mid-May through early June. Once you've harvested your first crop, you can succession plant your warmer mid-season crops such as tomatoes, peppers, onions, cucumbers, squash, parsnips, carrots and beans, as well as more lettuce, cabbage and beets. By planting late season crops mid-July through the first week of August, such as broccoli, cauliflower, Brussel sprout, kale, collards and cabbages you'll be able to harvest throughout the fall and over the winter. The first two weeks of September are a good time to plant bok choy, Chinese cabbage, kohlrabi, radishes and turnips for fall and winter eating.

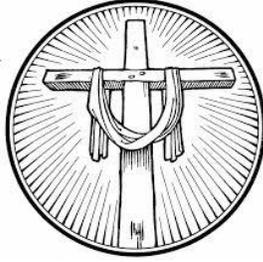
In our mild northwest climate, with thoughtful planning and succession crop rotation, you can enjoy fresh, nutritious and tasty eating year round. If you were unable to start your veggies indoors this winter or early spring, look for a wide variety of healthy starts at our up-coming early spring plant sale.

GrassRoots Garden is hosting a one-day plant sale and fundraiser on Saturday, April 7 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 pm. This one-day event is a major source of funds to help cover operating costs for both FFLC Gardens: the Youth Farm and GrassRoots Garden. Choose from a selection of healthy annual vegetable starts grown at the Youth Farm or from thousands of other edible, perennial, and ornamental plants (everything from ground covers to shade trees) donated by area nurseries. MGs will host "Ask A Master Gardener" booth to provide education and advice on plant selection. While hours prepping and working at the sale will not count toward volunteer hours, we will greatly appreciate your skill and ability to help label, clean up, transport and place plants in the right spot for the sale. Watch for further information about sale selections in the (April MG email/phone tree). If you can help with set up on Friday or with the sale on Saturday, please call or e-mail Merry Bradley. Thank you!

Winter Garden Hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. GrassRoots Garden is located at 1465 Coburg Rd., across from Safeway, behind St. Thomas Episcopal Church. For more information please contact Merry Bradley at [merrybradley@yahoo.com](mailto:merrybradley@yahoo.com) or Lonna Meston at [lonnameston@gmail.com](mailto:lonnameston@gmail.com). Join us on Facebook @grassroots garden. Thank you!



## Holy Week and Easter 2018



### **The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday (March 25)**

8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Palms and the Holy Eucharist (no music)

10:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Palms and the Holy Eucharist

*The people shout "Hosanna" as the church reenacts Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Yet triumph turns quickly to tragedy, shouts of "Hosanna" to "Crucify him," as the Passion Gospel of St. Mark is read.*

### **Holy Monday and Tuesday (March 26 and 27)**

5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

### **Holy Wednesday (March 28)**

5:30 p.m. The Way of the Cross

*For centuries, Christians of many denominations have conducted services (known as the Way of the Cross or the Stations of the Cross) that commemorate Jesus' journey from being condemned to death by Pilate to his entombment. We will be using the Way of the Cross service from Celtic Daily Prayer. A quiet, meditative service.*

### **Maundy Thursday (March 29)**

7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Liturgy and Vigil

*The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin mandatum, which means "command;" Christ's Great Commandment is that we love one another as he has loved us. At this service we reenact his demonstration of this commandment through the ritual of foot washing (optional). We will also commemorate the first Lord's Supper. The service concludes with the solemn stripping of the altar. Throughout the night we will also endeavor to "keep awake" with Jesus as we maintain a vigil with the consecrated bread and wine, commemorating the night before his death that he spent in the garden of Gethsemane.*

### **Good Friday (March 30)**

12:00 noon The Good Friday Liturgy

*This solemn service includes the reading of St. John's Passion Gospel and the veneration of the Cross.*

### **Easter Eve (March 31)**

7:00 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter

*The kindling of new fire; dramatic readings of the stories of Israel's redemption; renewal of Baptismal vows; the first Eucharist of Easter; a festive party. Everyone is invited to the central feast of the Christian year.*

### **The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day (April 1)**

8:00 a.m. The Holy Eucharist (no music)

10:00 a.m. Festal Eucharist

*Friends old and new join the St. Thomas family to celebrate the Sunday of the Resurrection. All are welcome. Early seating is advised for the 10:00 service.*

## March Birthdays



- 10 Bill Janes
- 15 Barbara Hemphill
- 16 Debbie Pezzoni
- 20 Sue Colvin
- 25 Keenan Davis
- 30 Bob Loomis

## March Anniversaries



- 20 Sue & Paul Colvin
- Judy & Larry Wilson



From left: Holly Spruance, John Spruance, Lindy Moore and Ann Gaillard at the *Project Resource: Oregon* on February 17<sup>th</sup>.



### *Why do I go to church?*

*Erika Hente replied that she goes to church because of the community and that she wants to expose her two young children to good role models in the Christian faith.*



## Greetings from the Choir Loft!

So much good news from the Music Ministry!

We had such a wonderful turnout for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper fundraiser that we raised more money than we ever have in the 16 years that I've been at St. Thomas...\$608.00!! A BIG thank you to all who came out to show your support and were so very generous with your donations. These funds will help us keep Chris King and Hunter Slawosky as our organists at least until the summer months come around.

An even BIGGER thank you goes to the members of the St. Thomas Choir. Without their hard work and dedication to the Music Ministry this would never have been possible. Thank you SO much!!

Now I'd like to take a moment to introduce you to THREE new choir members: Mary Adams, Michael Peacor and Max Peacor. We are so very happy to have these amazing musicians in our choir family. WELCOME!!

Keri Davis 😊  
Director of Music



We will be housing homeless families from the First Place Shelter from May 7 ó 14.  
Look for signups in the next month.

Check out the new St. Thomas website!

[www.st-thomaseugene.net](http://www.st-thomaseugene.net)



*St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
1465 Coburg Road  
Eugene, OR 97401*



*The Rev. Ann Gaillard, Rector  
Donna Hall, Secretary  
[www.st-thomaseugene.net](http://www.st-thomaseugene.net)*



march 2018

