

# The Beacon

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

APRIL 2019



## *From the Rector's Desk*

It has been a cold, wet, gray winter, and I for one am hungry for spring! The Big Snow during the last week of February really threw me for a loop-- especially when Lee reminded me that we had left our snow shovel behind when we moved here from upstate New York, 3,000 miles away. Kindly neighbors shoveled paths for us, however, though it was a challenge navigating our unplowed street, and the St. Thomas parking lot was impassible for several days. That late snow combined with the cold temperatures sent me running to Safeway to buy spring bouquets for our kitchen table. If spring wouldn't come on its own, I thought irrationally, maybe I could *make* it come!

But now springtime has arrived, the time that poet e.e. cummings refers to as "just spring," early spring. Birds are returning from their southern sojourn, the St. Thomas daffodils are nodding and dancing in the breeze, sunlight stretches its arms across the day, and deep within the earth, new plant life is pulsing and gathering energy to push through the soil. The world is so full of life right now that it's easy to forget that death had to occur last fall and winter before nature could be reborn. The grass and flowers, the trees and bushes, all had to die back, lose their leaves, or go into dormancy in order for us to have our spring festival of life.

That life can only come out of death is one of the universe's great paradoxes. Human beings tend not to like the paradox that we have to die in order to live, for it is our nature to want to clutch life tightly with both hands and not let go. So God must patiently teach us over and over again that only in letting go of our lives will we have true life.

Nowhere else in humankind's sacred history, of course, has God so strikingly revealed this truth about death and life than in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And so as Holy Week

and Easter approach, we at St. Thomas have an opportunity to journey with Christ as he walks the Way of this Truth. On this journey with Christ we experience the themes of death and life, sorrow and joy, hope and resurrection.

Beginning on Palm Sunday, with loud hosannas we will welcome Jesus as our king, and then vilify him in the Passion drama. On Maundy Thursday, we will join the disciples gathered for the Last Supper and re-discover through the ritual of foot washing what it means to serve. On Good Friday we will witness the mysterious power of sorrow and love intermingling on the Cross. And on Easter Sunday we will celebrate the springs of joy that poured forth on that resurrection morning.

All of Holy Week tells a powerful story of change, a story that continues to change the world, and to change peoples' lives. I invite you to participate in this story with me.

*Before the fruit is ripened by the sun,*

*Before the petals or the leaves uncoil,*

*Before the first fine silken root is spun,*

*A seed is dropped and buried in the soil.*

*Before we gain the grace that comes through loss,*

*Before we live by more than bread and breath,*

*Before we lift in joy an empty cross,*

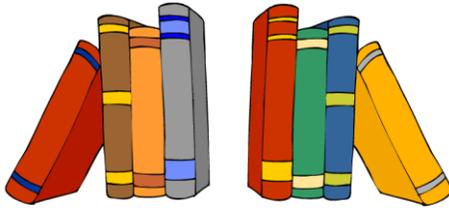
*We face with Christ the seed's renewing death.*

(author unknown)

Peace and many blessings,

*Ann +*

*The Parish Library ~  
Hidden Treasures in Plain Sight*



“He had a face”. So begins one of the treasures to be found in the library, and one of particular relevance as we proceed through this Lenten season.

“The Faces of Jesus” by Frederick Buechner takes the reader through the gospel story, from the Annunciation through His Resurrection, examining how the events of Jesus life were depicted by the painters, sculptures. and woodworkers though the centuries in the ways they presented His face.

However, this is more than an art book. It is not one that is meant to just scan through quickly. Beautifully written, its text is one that invites you to contemplate your own thoughts and beliefs as you recollect the life of Jesus, leading up to that glorious Resurrection we will be celebrating in a few weeks.

I Think you will find this book a treasure to be discovered, not only in this Lenten season, but anytime that you spend some time with it.

Barbara Root

***And speaking of books...***

The Women’s Afternoon Book Group will be meeting at 2 pm on Thursday, April 25 at the home of Sally Schwarz. Sally’s address is 2925 Darrien St., Eugene. Contact Sue Colvin (541-683-5938) if you need a ride.

Our April book selection is THE BAKER’S SECRET by Stephen K. Kiernan. A list of monthly book selections is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. If you see a book that interests you, come and join the discussion that month. New members are always welcome.

Sue Colvin

***What Does the St. Thomas Endowment Fund Do?***



As of today – nothing. What can our Endowment Fund do? Lots...for instance, fund a ministry to housebound seniors, award a seminary scholarship to a St. Thomas member, or hire a part time youth minister.

But before we move from dreaming of these ministries to creating them, we must increase our Fund to \$250,000. Today, at about \$143,000, we’re just \$107,000 short.

We will close that gap and move from dreaming to doing because our members will continue making generous tax-deductible gifts to our Fund and/or remembering it in their wills.

Giving when we might not see results of our donation for several years is an act of faith – faith that when we’ve closed our funding gap we’ll be ready to turn those gifts into new, exciting ministries that reflect God’s unending love for us by living out His command that we help His children.

Duncan Murray

Chair, Endowment Fund

**SPRINGTIME  
BINGO**



Another round of Bingo at St. Thomas is scheduled for Friday, April 12 in the Parish Hall at 3:00 pm. Bring a friend and join in the fun and fellowship.

## GrassRoots Garden Happenings



The GrassRoots Garden Plant Sale and Fundraiser is Saturday, April 6 from 10:00 am to 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. Master Gardeners and the Mobile Plant Clinic will help visitors understand and choose plants for light and soil needs, spacing and reliability. Come early for best selection!

Early Spring Garden Hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Beginning May 1, days change to Tuesday through Saturday. GrassRoots Garden is located at 1465 Coburg Rd., across from Safeway, and behind St. Thomas Episcopal Church. For more information please contact Merry Bradley at 541-484-7144 or merrybradley@yahoo.com. Thanks for your caring and support.



***Iris Sayer***  
***In Memoriam***  
*April 3, 1936 – March 14, 2019*

Iris Sayer, Master Gardener, died on Thursday, March 14 in Pinole, CA. In celebration and remembrance, we would like to share her legacy.

Iris was a beautiful, internationally connected, soft-spoken, articulate, wise, loving, caring, and creative pioneer. She had a significant impact on the

Grassroots Garden, the Master Gardener Program and our community.

Iris was a visionary and a leader. She lived a very intentional life centered around the good of the planet. After becoming a Master Gardener in 1995, Iris brought who she was and how she saw the world to the MG program. It was an obvious outcome for her to create the Compost Specialist Program in 1996.

Compost Specialists went into the schools, including kindergarten classrooms, to share the principles of composting. Children were encouraged to share the practice of composting with their parents. The whole community has been blessed by her foresightedness in creating the Compost Specialist Program and all that it has become today.

So much of what now exists at GrassRoots was because of Iris. She drew up plans for buildings and structures at the Garden including the screened-in porch, cabinets, and washbasins; the kitchen and dry lumber storage, the grape arbor, greenhouse framing, potting tables and compost bins. She also helped write proposals for projects and need-lists we would use to ask for donations from corporations, Master Gardeners, FOOD for Lane County and other organizations in the community. Iris realized that no one knew the complete history of the Garden, so she researched and wrote the history in full. Iris was an organizer and distiller of concepts and knowledge. She helped to set the tone at GrassRoots for kindness, compassion and hard work above and beyond.

Iris' influence lives on in the lives she touched at GrassRoots Garden, the Master Gardener Program, and future generations who will not have met her, but will benefit from her visionary spirit.

If you have a story or memory you would like to share about Iris, please join us at

GrassRoots Garden on April 4th at 2:30 to celebrate and remember a wise pioneer and visionary woman, Iris Sayre.





## **Holy Week and Easter 2019**

### **The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday (April 14)**

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. Luke is read.*

### **Holy Monday and Tuesday (April 15 and 16)**

5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

### **Holy Wednesday (April 17)**

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 (April 18)**

7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Liturgy

*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.*

### **Good Friday (April 19)**

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.*

### **Holy Saturday (April 20)**

9:00 a.m. Holy Saturday Liturgy

*A short, simple service of readings and prayers.*

### **The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day (April 21)**

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. An Easter Egg Hunt for our children will follow the 10:00 service.*



### ***The Outreach Corner – Home Starter Kits***

The Outreach Ministry is excited to announce that St. Thomas is now a volunteer in the Home Starter Kit Program (HSK).

A Home Starter Kit provides basic kitchen, bedroom and personal hygiene goods to individuals and families who are transitioning out of substance abuse treatment, homelessness, abusive relationships, mental health programs and prison. As clients of not-for profit social service agencies moving into their own apartment or homes, many people need the basic items of daily life.

Beginning in 2007, the HSK program became a multi-congregational ministry. Currently, the Church of the Resurrection, St. John's, St. Matthew's, and now St. Thomas are all actively involved and in partnership with a few other churches in the community.

Each month we will be asking for donations of specific items. For the rest of March and for the month of April, we are asking for new sheets, sheet sets and pillow cases.

As always, we depend on the generosity of St. Thomas' congregation and on our ministry fund raising to fulfill our purpose. From Matthew 25: Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, this ministry will endeavor "to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked and visit the sick and imprisoned." According to the mandate of our Lord Jesus Christ, we share our blessings of food, shelter and love with those in need.

Blessings, Lindy Moore



## ***Celebrating Parishioners***

### ***April Birthdays***

3	Patty O'Neal Joan Braun
8	Laurinda Andrist John Paulson
9	Barbara Root
10	Kathy O'Neal
13	Erika Hente Paul Colvin
18	Donna Hall
21	Mary Lusk
30	Mason Duer

### ***April Anniversaries***

16	Stu Hogg and Charlotte Heltman
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### ***Important Calendar Reminders***

***April 4 – Finance Committee 10:00 am***

***April 3 & 10 – Compline 5:30 pm***

***April 6 – GrassRoots Garden Plant Sale  
10:00 am – 4:00 pm***

***April 6 – Vestry Retreat 10:00 am – 2:00 pm***

***April 7 & 14 - Lenten Prayer Class, 11:30 am***

Continues every Sunday in Lent

***April 8 – Outreach 1:00 pm***

***April 9 – Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm***

***April 12 – Bingo 3:00 pm***

***April 13 – Parish Workday 9:00 am – noon***

***Palm Crosses 10:00 am***

***April 15 – 20 – Holy Week*** (Refer to page 4  
for complete service schedule)

***April 21 – EASTER***

Children's Easter Egg Hunt  
following the 10:00 am service

Committee reports and articles for the Beacon are welcome. Please submit to Cindy Jensen at [LAJotKDK@aol.com](mailto:LAJotKDK@aol.com) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.