



The Beacon

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Give thanks and praise to our Lord and share His love.

July 2019

St. Thomas Episcopal Church Mission Statement

Volume 20 Issue 7

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Vestry:

- Erika Hente,
Sr. Warden
- Janet Calvert
- Sue Colvin
- Dave Fredmonsky
- Diane Landon
- Debbie Pezzoni
- John Spruance
- Anne VanDerveer
- Judy Wilson
- Tom Whitehead,
Treasurer
- Beverly Jackson,
Clerk

Rector – Rev. Ann Gaillard

Secretary – Donna Hall

1465 Coburg Road

Eugene, Oregon 97401

Phone: 541-343-5241

Email:

stthomaschurcheugene@gmail.com

Companion Ministries:

- GrassRoots Garden
- St. Thomas Preschool
- Center for Community Counseling



From the Rector's desk ~

In the Church, the liturgical year is divided into either special seasons or what is referred to as Ordinary Time. Special seasons include Lent, Easter, Advent, and Christmas. Whenever the Church isn't celebrating one of these, it is Ordinary Time. It's the longest liturgical season, encompassing either 33 or 34 weeks each year. Ordinary Time is technically one liturgical season, though it's divided into two periods: the season after the Feast of the Epiphany and the season after the Day of Pentecost.

While the English word *ordinary* in popular usage describes things that are nondescript or dull, the word in the liturgical sense means "customary, regular, and orderly." Ordinary Time may also be called Ordinal Time, which means "numbered time." *Ordinal* comes from the Latin *ordinalis*, which means "showing order, denoting an order of succession." Hence, Ordinary Time is the standard, orderly, counted time outside of the other liturgical seasons.

Ordinary Time is also intended to translate the Latin term *tempus per annum* (literally "time through the year"). This doesn't mean that Ordinary Time is nothing special: after all, Jesus performed miracles all throughout the year! It just means that, because Ordinary Time takes up more than half the liturgical year, it is considered to be *tempus per annum*, "time through the year."

For me personally, during the summer Ordinary Time takes on an additional layer of meaning. Although I'm always plenty busy at work in the summer, the long warm days of June, July, and August combined with the absence of major feasts (Christmas! Holy Week!) create a gentler, less frenetic pace. I have more thinking time, reading time, planning time, prayer time. I don't feel as pushed and pulled in a million different directions as I do during the rest of the year; I'm able to be more mindful of taking care of myself—eating properly, exercising more, getting enough sleep, spending time with friends and family, enjoying life as it comes.

I find it appropriate that the liturgical color for Ordinary Time is green, for green is the most ordinary, or customary, color in our natural environment. To me, our green vestments correspond with the full summer leafiness of trees and bushes, the green lawns our children play on—perhaps running through the sprinklers on a hot day while they wait for the tinny, tinkling call of the ice cream truck. Green is a color of hope and growth, so if I'm lucky summer's more deliberate rhythm helps me to grow, too.

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From the Rector's desk ~ Continued from page 1

The rhythm of the liturgical seasons reflects the rhythm of life--with its celebrations of special anniversaries and its seasons of quiet growth and maturing. This summer, I hope that you all will have the chance to nurture your physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual growth by dwelling in the green pastures of *tempus per annum*, or Ordinary Time.

Peace and many blessings,

Vestry Liaison Assignments

As parish members experience the various St. Thomas ministries, it is helpful to know the vestry members who are assigned to each ministry. Identifying these ministry liaisons enables us to share our appreciation, communicate any concerns and celebrate the grace of God that shines through the caring attention of St. Thomas parishioners.

Communications Ministries – Janet Calvert

The Beacon Newsletter
Newspaper Advertising
Church Directory
Phone Tree
Electronic Communications: Website,
Facebook, E-Newsletter
Signage

Outreach Ministries -- John Spruance Financial and Hands-On

Outreach Committee
Grassroots Garden
Center for Community Counseling
Shelter Week
St. Mary's Breakfast

Education Ministries – Judy Wilson

St. Thomas Preschool
Monday Lunch Bunch
Men's Saturday Morning Bible Study
Monthly Book Group
Education For Ministry (EFM)
Sunday School / Youth Group
Adult Forums and Evening Series

Finance Ministries – Anne VanDerveer

Finance Committee
Audit Committee
Counting Guild
Endowment Board
Stewardship
Budget
Financial Planning Commission

Hospitality Ministries – Diane Landon, Debbie Pezzoni

Newcomers
Ushers
Coffee Hour
Annual Meeting
Special Events

Liturgy & Music Ministries --

Erika Hente

Choir
Altar Guild
LEMS
Lectors
Acolytes

Buildings & Grounds Ministries –

Dave Fredmonsky

Building and Grounds
Memorial Garden

Evangelism/Church Growth/Membership

Everyone on Vestry!!!!

Personnel -- Sue Colvin

Vestry Liaison Duties:

1. Talk to contacts prior to Vestry meeting.
2. Be a point of contact and resource for your committees.
3. Be a point of encouragement for your committees.
4. Be prepared each month to write a report updating the Vestry on the activities, etc., of your area of responsibility.



Parish Letter

Dear St. Thomas parishioners,

Your Senior Warden and your Rector have some good news...and some bad news. The good news is that your generous pledging for 2019 gave us a balanced budget for this year.

The bad news is that from January through June of this year, the pledged income actually received from parishioners came in at significantly less than what had been both pledged and budgeted for 2019. During four of the first six months, contributions have left us with shortfalls of at least \$1,000 per month. Thus as of June 30, halfway through the fiscal year, St. Thomas is projecting a deficit in pledged income of \$5,760.

As you know, last year's Budget Committee and Vestry worked extremely hard to create the balanced budget with which we started 2019. *This was a bare bones budget--nothing in excess.* In addition, the St. Thomas staff has been doing a very good job controlling expenses. Our parish has no financial cushion; budgeted monthly income from parishioners is used to pay St. Thomas' monthly bills. Every penny received from parishioners is necessary for the basic running of the parish. This includes the summertime, so if you are going to be out of town please do your best to maintain your pledge so that the parish is not caught short.

We are exceedingly grateful to *everyone* who pledges. We are also hoping that if you are behind on your pledge you will be able to catch up if at all possible. If you have experienced a life event that is preventing you from fulfilling your pledge, we hope that you will speak either to Rector Ann or to Tom Whitehead, our parish treasurer. Such communications will certainly be held in confidence.

Thank you for your generosity.

In Christ,



Erika Hente, Senior Warden



The Rev. Ann Gaillard, Rector

St. Thomas Endowment Fund



Planned Giving...Right For You?

Maybe *Planned Giving* **is** right for you!

Find out Sunday, September 22, at our 10:00 Coffee Hour. That's when Sara Brandt, Regional Director of Oregon Community Foundation, which manages our Endowment Fund, will help all of us answer this question.

Is *Planned Giving* only for the wealthy? Absolutely not. It's for anyone who has or plans to have a will. Does *Planned Giving* conflict with our annual pledge? Again – absolutely not. Our yearly pledge is what we give now. *Planned Giving* usually occurs when we depart this life and enter life eternal.

Why do St. Thomas members practice *Planned Giving* by including our Endowment Fund in their wills? Often because they want their Christian values to live beyond their time on earth in new ministries made possible by their gifts.

Please join us on September 22. Maybe *Planned Giving* fits **your** plans.

Duncan Murray, Chair

St. Thomas Wish Book



Take a seat, or maybe two.

Do you want to help everyone have a seat that doesn't collapse? Many chairs in the Parish Hall need to be replaced due to cracks in the structure. Now you have the opportunity to give to the Wish Book to purchase replacements. There is an example of the Lifetime chair that we would like to buy from Costco in the Parish Hall. Please look at it and consider donating for one or more at \$22 each. You can sign the list either on the chair or in the Wish Book to help St. Thomas meet this need.

Thanks to the generosity of St. Thomas Wish Book donors a new street sign has been installed. As you can see from the pictures it was needed. This is

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another completed Wish Book item and parishioners are welcome to request new additions.



Old Street Sign----- New Street Sign



Sincere thanks are extended to Linda Whitehead for providing the fresh coat of paint on our parish direction sign.

Altar Guild

We members of St. Thomas Altar Guild would like to share with you why we enjoy and find serving on Altar Guild so valuable and fulfilling. We have lost several members over the last couple of years due to various reasons and appeal to you to think seriously about volunteering.

We have both men and women volunteering currently and in the past. It takes very little time. Currently we alternate every three weeks. Two people set up the Altar on Saturday mornings around 9 a.m. It takes less than an hour to do this. Clean-up on Sunday takes about 15 minutes. We share on special occasions.

The following are comments from current and past Altar Guild members:

Setting up the Altar has been the most rewarding job I have ever experienced. The vessels, the linens, the candles and their placement on the Altar all

*have a special meaning. I feel I am giving back to God for all he has given me. Setting up the Altar makes me feel closer to this Church as well as to GOD. I feel it is a privilege to belong to Altar Guild. I feel blessed. **Barbara Hemphill***

*When you enter the church on a Saturday morning to prepare the Altar for the Sunday services you feel the quiet of your surroundings; you look up and our beautiful windows remind you that you are in God's house. You feel calm and the hustle and bustle of the world outside is no more. There are always two of you on duty and each one does his or her assigned duties. Altar Guild is a silent ministry with no fanfare but the most important part of any service. Here you serve God and share with Him the last meal he took with his disciples. **Lyn West (retired member)***

*For over 35 years it has been my privilege to be an Altar Guild member. I can't imagine not helping prepare the Altar for service as to me it is an important part of going to an Episcopal church. Once you learn the ins and outs of Altar work it becomes a peaceful, quiet time doing God's work. Over the years I have met and worked with many lovely ladies and men. The fellowship we share will always be special. **Linda Whitehead (Tom also is a member)***

*I joined Altar Guild when we were still doing the youth group. I wanted to do something intermittently that helped run the church. I wanted it to be behind the scenes with little fanfare. It is an easy way to serve the church. **Anne VanDerveer (Joe is also a member)***

*A few years ago, I was asked to join Altar Guild. I was a little reluctant at first to join. I didn't have a clue what Altar Guild was all about. I'm so glad I decided to join. It's a quiet, peaceful way to give to the church and take very little time. It's enhanced my understanding of what/why we do certain things in the Episcopal Church. I enjoy working with the other Altar Guild members; they are so helpful whenever you need it. **Judy Wilson***

I have been a member of Altar Guild for many, many years. I joined when I attended St. Luke's of the Mountains in La Crescenta, California. I wanted to do something for my church that would

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come from my heart, not just my wallet. At St. Thomas, I feel that taking care of God's house allows me to express to Him my gratitude for His caring and His loving that I receive. I enjoy the time spent with my church family members as I participate in this ministry. I find peace when I am alone in God's house and can speak to Him in the silence surrounding me as I prepare the Altar for the holy meal we will share the next day. Thanks be to God! **Shari Janes (Bill also is a member)**



We would love to have you join us. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Whitehead or any Altar Guild members.

Commissioning of New Lay Readers

At the 10:00 am service on June 9 two new lectors were commissioned for service at St. Thomas. Rev. Ann and Lindy Moore, senior lay reader, led the commissioning liturgy and welcomed Pam Farr and Mary Adams to this ministry.

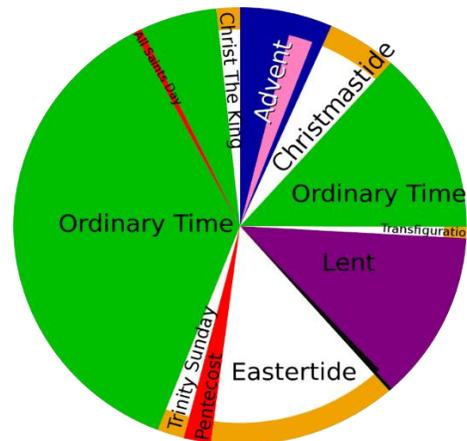


Search for New Diocesan Bishop

This spring the impending retirement of Bishop Michael Hanley was announced and applications for the search committee were being accepted. Our own Mary Adams submitted an application and has been assigned to this important diocesan committee.

Sunday School Celebration

On June 9 the Sunday school children and their teachers were recognized. Though not all of our children could be present for this celebratory service, the presentation of the Sunday School quilt represented the study curriculum and efforts of all our St. Thomas children. They are a happy little group of friends, growing in their faith and understanding of Christ's teachings.



The colorful border of the quilt reflects the seasons of the church year so nicely outlined in Rev. Ann's message in this edition. The children have studied the church calendar in their lessons.



The Sunday School Celebration coincided with the celebration of Pentecost, so red was the color of the day! Rev. Ann presented orchids to teachers Sue

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Colvin and Judy Wilson and nursery attendant, Lottie Rohde. The children received coloring workbooks for some fun summertime activities. Not in attendance, students Mason and Lucy Duer and teachers Holly Spruance and Cindy Jensen.



Rev. Ann, Tilda and Lottie Rohde, Christopher and Emily Hente, Judy Wilson and Sue Colvin

GrassRoots Garden Happenings



The garden faced a major cabbage challenge this spring. Shortly after planting out starts from the greenhouse, we noticed a crow consistently pulling up plants and pecking the root balls for easily found worms. We decided to re-plant the starts in hopes they would survive, but the crow was just as persistent and pulled the plants out again. This process played itself out several times. We suspected this crow might have been the same crow that pulled out cabbage, beet and onion starts to a lesser extent in past years. As a way to stop this behavior, we decided to do exclusion, using bird netting as we had successfully used to a small extent in seasons past.

We began covering the targeted section with netting. The crow simply moved to other sections and pulled out an even greater number of cabbage starts, so we put down more netting. Finally, all cabbage, chard, beet and spinach beds in the Garden were covered due to the ever-persistent crow. Even

though the low hanging green cloud of netting was pretty with irrigation droplets sparkling in the sunlight, the netting made it difficult to weed, causing the crops to compete for water, nutrients and space. Unfortunately, the decision to use such extensive bird netting resulted in the loss of a few small, unintended birds. The crow ended up salvaging scraps from the compost pile.

Then the first hot weather hit causing cabbage plants to shut down. With the cold spell that followed, the cabbages seemed to just sit there. Nothing grew much. At that point we began to see areas of die-off. On inspection no cut worms were seen. Ross Penhallegon came to the Garden to help with the analysis, given that we were seeing 8 – 10 plants dying one after another in a straight row or up to half of the bed dead. Upon examination we found that many of the small dead plants had their roots eaten away. Some had a few larvae of the predacious ground beetle present. When digging up one large healthy-looking plant, we discovered large numbers of ground beetle larvae; about 15 were eating the outer roots and about 15 piled together eating at the base of the stem. This was not expected, as Ross explained he had never seen this specific larvae activity before. Ground beetles (ours is the Velvet Ground Beetle to be specific) are predators, generally considered beneficial insects that feast on caterpillars, fly maggots, aphids, slugs, and even other beetles. After a review, Ross said this phenomenon of eating cabbage roots was nowhere in the literature. So, this could be a GrassRoots first! It is possible the extreme heat then a cold stretch caused the plants to stress, resulting in chemical signals attracting larvae to those areas.

When the weather warmed up, the remaining cabbage plants began to grow to maturity, though the heads were smaller than usual, and the crop was 3 weeks to a month late to harvest. This put us behind in planting out the next planned crop rotation for the season. This push to plant was a challenge given school had just let out and we did not have the numbers of garden participants usually available to help with the bed re-preparation and to make planting go quickly.

Overall, cabbage challenges this spring resulted in finding ways to address and adapt to unknowns,

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expectations and frustrations. Each decision created a new round of effort and a search for options. We began to accept the losses, learn from them and appreciate what we were able to accomplish. Most of all, learning and working together was the key to moving on and welcoming the rest of the season. As many farmers say, there is always next year!

Bees and Butterflies – Small but Powerful Pollinator Event Saturday, July 13 from 10:00 to 11:00 am. This is a family friendly educational event and walk. Join us to see what’s buzzing!

Educational Walks continue on the first Saturday of the month through the summer. The **Herb Garden** starts at 10:00 am and **Weed Walks** start at 11:30 am. There is no Weed Walk scheduled for July, but it will happen again in August.

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!



July Birthdays

- 4 Florence Litzenberger
- 9 Jane Spencer
- 12 Sally Ward
- 22 Tom Whitehead
- 24 Merle Spencer



July Anniversaries

- 11 Gary and Cindy Jensen
- 18 Burt and Sally Schwarz

From the Editor

As you can see from this Beacon edition masthead, a refreshed newsletter format is being tried. Over the next few months we will introduce new formatting for our parish newsletter. The colors of the banner and sidebar will change with the church seasons. The goal is to enhance the effort to make our newsletter an engaging and informative communication tool that announces upcoming events, celebrates what has been going on at St. Thomas and provides thoughtful articles that uplift the spirit. Suggestions and contributions from the parish are welcome.

Our parish newsletter has evolved over the 44 years that this editor has been a parishioner. It began as a typed, photo-copied, stapled and mailed document lovingly prepared by Barbara Root and titled *The Church Mouse*. Computer word documents simplified the effort and the internet streamlined the distribution process. About twenty years ago the moniker of the newsletter was changed to *The Beacon*, and in recent years Lindy Moore has provided her editorial expertise and now serves as our parish webmaster.

There is great comfort in the image of a lighthouse with its shining light, and as such that image provided a suitable name for our parish newsletter. A beacon is a *guiding light*, a promise of *hope*, an offering of a *place of refuge*. As members of St. Thomas we ascribe to our mission statement to be faithful followers who *give thanks and praise to our Lord and share His love*, whether it be in our house of worship or out in the community. That makes each of us a *beacon* of His light and our newsletter, *The Beacon*, is our collective voice.

In the months to come The Beacon will include contributions from Vestry liaisons, ministry leaders, news from our companion ministries and diocesan reports. Pictures are always welcome. Contributors may provide the information for the editor to write the requested article, or submit a WORD document and send by the 25th of the month for publication in the following month’s edition. Send contributions to Cindy Jensen, email: LAJotKDK@aol.com.