



The Beacon

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

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

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In this Issue:

- Rector's message
- Endowment News
- Exploring Our Liturgy
- Sunday School
Blessing of Back Packs
- Book Reports
- TaiChi, Yoga and
Oigong Classes

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From the Rector's desk ~

Early autumn is such a bittersweet time for me. On the one hand, it's hard to let go of the final, lingering days of summer. But having been in schools as either student or teacher for forty years, I find it impossible to think of autumn as anything other than a time of new beginnings, a truer New Year than January 1. This is also a time of new beginnings in the church calendar. Although the liturgical church year begins with Advent, and the color of the current liturgical season is still green, St. Thomas' program year starts *now*, in autumn with its crisp mornings and evenings and the gradually changing colors of the trees.

As is the custom at St. Thomas, our program year begins the Sunday after Labor Day, September 8. Our choir will be rehearsing and leading the music at the 10:00 service after their summer hiatus. Sunday School for our children also begins on that day, so our children should report to their classroom by 10:00 a.m. In addition, during announcement time there will be a special blessing of our Sunday School and a "Blessing of the Backpacks" to commemorate the start of the school year.

Sunday, September 22nd, will be an important day in the life of the parish. Following the 10:00 service, the St. Thomas Endowment Board is sponsoring a special presentation on planned giving by Sara Brandt, Director of Philanthropy for the Oregon Community Foundation. The purpose of the presentation is to show how planned giving to St. Thomas can build a lasting personal legacy of our Christian values, help St. Thomas start new ministries, and create a memorial to a loved one no longer with us.

As we did last year, we will offer a Blessing of the Animals/Pets service on Saturday, October 5, the day after the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. So, bring your critters (leashed or caged, please!) for a special blessing.

New this fall will be a monthly healing Eucharist. Beginning in October, a service of healing prayer with anointing will be offered the first Wednesday of each month at 12:30.

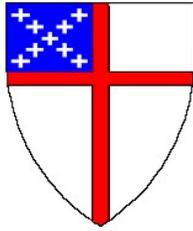
There are other activities still in the planning stages, so stay tuned! I am looking forward to a fun, busy, exciting fall with all of you.

Peace and many blessings,

Ann +



Exploring Our Liturgy



Recently I had a request from the Beacon editor, Cindy Jensen, to write some articles for the Beacon about our liturgy. As we begin this venture, two questions come to my mind whose answers will be helpful stepping-stones for the next step of our journey. 1) What is a liturgy and, 2) What makes it different from other forms of worship?

As Episcopalians, we often hear this word “liturgy” because it is one of the titles given to our usual Sunday morning communal worship service. Calling this service “THE Liturgy” does two things. First, it indicates the type of worship service it represents and, secondly, the importance we place on this service as Episcopalians. However, it is not the only liturgy that we are familiar with and often use in our prayer life.

The word “liturgy”, in its broadest sense, means a worship service which follows a set form. The Episcopal Church is called a liturgical denomination because our worship services are based on this principle. Our Prayer Book, for example, is the collection of the liturgies we use in our worship life together. Whether we are participating in Morning Prayer, a baptismal service, a wedding service or a funeral, we are following the set form of that service.

Liturgical worship has often been compared to a drama. But this analogy is not quite correct. In a theater a small company of players perform before an audience. The audience may be profoundly moved or delighted by the actors, but it has no responsibility for the drama. In a liturgy, however, all the assembly are the players, and each must know his/her lines and cues. The more familiar a player’s part, the more ready he/she is to carry on the drama with understanding and zest. In fact, the word “liturgy” comes from the Greek word “leitourgia”, which means “the work of the people”.

Because liturgical worship demands a corporate participation, it is easy to see how liturgies tend to become fixed in the use of habitual and familiar forms. In spite of this, most liturgies are constantly undergoing revision and alterations. New liturgical usages are constantly being invented to enrich, to modify, and even to supplant older ones.

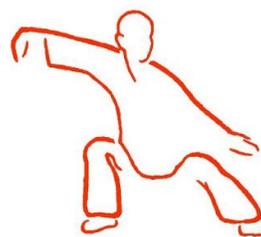
A good example of this is what we are experiencing here at St. Thomas. Ann is introducing us to some of the liturgical language changes being used not only in Episcopal churches but in Anglican churches world-wide to enrich our worship experience.

Some of us still remember the Elizabethan language of the 1928 Prayer Book of our youth and early adulthood. Others know only our current 1979 Book revision. In this 21st century, the Episcopal Church is joining the actions of other Anglican Churches in the revision of their liturgies. Last year’s General Convention authorized the beginning of the 12-year process of another Prayer Book revision.

No matter what future changes may be introduced, if a worship service is considered liturgical in form, what does it need to make it so? Tune in next time.

Barbara Root

Tai Chi, Yoga and Qigong Sessions

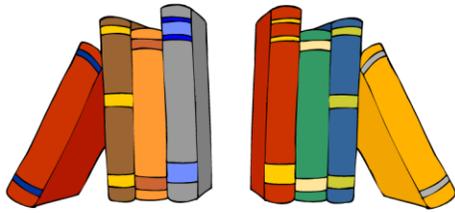


For the past two years St. Thomas has been the location for several weekly sessions of Tai Chi, Yoga and Qigong. Suman Barkas provided master instruction and

developed a dedicated group of participants. Each of these martial arts forms provide excellent health and fitness benefits for improved breathing, balance and core strength.

Though his students were sorry to see Suman leave for a permanent position in Omaha, NE, two long-time students have stepped up to continue these weekly sessions. New participants are welcome. Check the calendar for the class, day and time that suits your interest and schedule.

Book Reports



The Women's Afternoon Book Group reading assignment for September is The Elephant Whisperer by Lawrence Anthony. The September meeting and book group discussion will be hosted by Sandra Bristow.

The Book Group welcomes new participants. Meetings are held throughout the year on the 4th Thursday of the month, with the exception of November when meetings are scheduled on the 3rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving and December when no meeting is held due to the holidays.

Endowment News ***Planned Giving – A Good Idea?***



For several months we've been asking our congregation "Is Planned Giving to the St. Thomas Endowment Fund right for you?" On Sunday, Sept. 22 at the 10:00 o'clock coffee hour Sarah Brandt, of the Oregon Community Foundation, will help many of us answer that question.

Today let's think about why leaving a bequest to our Fund is a good idea. What could the Fund do with our gifts? Here are a few examples:

- Stage community events to attract new members
- Hire a part time youth ministries leader
- Start an outreach ministry to Eugene seniors
- Support a seminarian

What would you want our Fund to do with your gift? The Endowment Fund Board would be thrilled to work with you to target your gift to a purpose dear to you.

And here's another reason why including the Endowment Fund in your will is a good idea: there's simply no better or more lasting way to express your gratitude for what St. Thomas means to you.

Duncan Murray
Endowment Fund Board Chairman



Sunday School Resumes

Sunday School Registration begins September 1 with the first day of class on September 8. This will be a celebratory opening to the Sunday School year as the youth will participate as torch bearers and ushers, and during the Peace there will be the blessing of the backpacks.

With the aid of some fun, faith-based flashcards and inspired by the message of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry – *the way of love* – the Sunday School teachers have designed a "clothesline curriculum" for this school year. Lessons will be based on Bishop Curry's statement: "If it's not about love, it's not about God." Throughout the year with the aid of flashcards the children will learn the ABC's of theology, gain an understanding of the attributes of God and study men and women of faith. Throughout the school year they will create their own flashcards to hang on the clothesline posted on the Sunday School bulletin boards in the parish hall.

September Birthdays

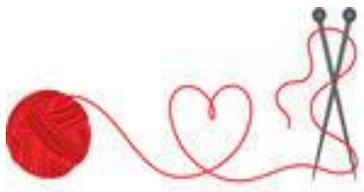


- 2 Lucy Duer
- 4 Steven Payne
- 12 Linda Whitehead
Charlotte Heltman
- 14 Burt Schwarz
Dave Phillippi
- 17 Jean Payne
- 25 Harlan Rohde
- 27 Garnet Harris
- 29 Gail Morgan
- 30 Tilda Rohde

September Anniversaries



- 2 Andy and Laurinda Andrist
- 7 Joe and Anne Konieczka
- 14 Dick and Joan Braun
- 15 Mark and Debbie Pezzoni



Ladies Craft Time

Join us again on the third Saturday of the month for a *ladies' craft time* and bring your knitting, needlepoint, or any other kind of craft that suits your interest. Or don't bring a craft and just come to chat. The meeting time is 2:00 – 4:00 pm. See Mary Adams or Anne VanDerveer for more details. Future dates: September 21, October 19, November 16.

Dear St. Thomas parishioners,

For a number of years, the first Sunday of September has been designated as an ecumenical World Day of Prayer for Creation. Anglican, Roman



Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and other religious bodies have in various ways observed this day of prayer for the health and well-being of our natural world and all affected by it. Given the climate-change related disasters that have been happening this past year throughout our nation and world, and especially right now with the melting of the ice sheets in Greenland and the burning of the Amazon rain forests, it has seemed to me particularly appropriate that we at St. Thomas observe this World Day of Prayer for Creation this Sunday. Accordingly, this Sunday's services will include special prayers and other liturgical elements focused on Creation Care. I hope you will be able to come to church on Sunday for this intentional lifting up in prayer "our fragile earth, our island home."

Many blessings,
Ann+



In Memorium

We remember and celebrate the lives of devoted members of our parish family.

Edgar VanDerveer attended St. Thomas whenever visiting daughter Anne and family and after a move to Eugene, he was in regular attendance. Ed was a devoted Episcopalian serving his New Jersey parish in many capacities for decades. St. Thomas was blessed to have his gracious presence with us during his all too brief time in Eugene.

Barbara Loomis passed peacefully in August. Both she and her husband Bob, who passed last spring, were long-time members of St. Thomas. A celebration of life for Barbara will be held on Saturday, September 7 at 1:00 pm with reception to follow.

GrassRoots Garden

Summer at GrassRoots means lots of youth in the Garden!



Camp Venture, a Willamlane day camp for kids ages 11-13, completed their last day at GrassRoots Garden with pear pie and a flourish of zucchini whistles. The campers in the ten-week program joined us weekly starting in mid-June for gardening activities, education and adventures in our outdoor kitchen. For many campers this summer marked their second or third year at the Garden with Camp Venture.

Our daily activities involved manure patrol – working in coordinated groups to unload the truck and spread the composted manure – and learning how to apply soil amendments and spade beds. Whether planting celery, chard and corn, using a broadfork to break up compacted soil, weeding or harvesting, the campers gave it their all and showed a great thirst for knowledge.

Lunch was always the highlight of the day. Group favorites included pesto pasta, creamy tomato soup, fresh applesauce and hot, crusty bread donated by Metropolis Bakery. Many would come up to personally thank us over and over again for the “very delicious food.” One boy, who was always the last to finish, would stay behind long after all was cleared away, sopping up every last drop of soup in his bowl with bread. He told us that he was not from Eugene; he lived in New Mexico and could only visit his dad in the summer. He said though he was very full, he wanted to eat it all because he had never tasted food like this before!

This extreme love for our tasty food caused many to regularly vie for time spent in our outdoor kitchen where they got hands-on experience preparing their beloved tomato soup, pesto and apple sauce, Thai peanut zoodles (spiralized zucchini) and corn on the cob.

As the ten weeks came to a close, Garden Coordinator Merry Bradley taught campers *one of the important things in life* – the art of crafting zucchini whistles from the young, green stems of squash plants and made to honor their contributions

to the Garden. We hope to see returning campers next year and welcome camp graduates back as they work to fulfill high school volunteer requirements. A hearty thanks to Camp Venture staff and campers for all the fun and the transformative work around the Garden and for sharing their summers with us.

GrassRoots Garden is forming a builder renovation crew for infrastructure repair and improvements at the Garden. If you have carpentry and/or building skills and want to contribute and gain by being an integral part of a fun and vital group, please contact Merry Bradley at 541-484-7144 or merrybradley@yahoo.com.

Summer Garden Hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Thanks for your caring and support!

Reflections

The sun is setting on summer, and with that the beginning of another school year. Soon the colors of fall will appear in all the resplendent hues of gold and red. Sweaters and raincoats will emerge from the back of closets. Days will get shorter and the sunsets more vibrant. Around the world even with the passage of the seasons, lighthouse beacons continue their vigilance. It is a wonderful image for this monthly missive, so with the change of seasons new lighthouse images will be shared. The banner for this edition features Lane County’s Heceta Head Lighthouse, one of the most photographed in the country and a special place of reflection for this editor. May we be ever mindful of the greatest beacon that beckons and guides us---the light of the world, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

