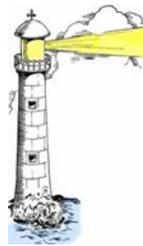


The Beacon

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH



May, 2018

Lindy Moore, Editor

From the Rector's Desk

When people find out I work at St. Thomas, I frequently receive compliments on how beautifully maintained our grounds are. You and I know that our property is kept up only through the dedication and hard work of parish volunteers, especially Jim Hall, Larry and Judy Wilson, Linda Whitehead, and Bill Janes.

Bill is both Junior Warden and the Vestry Liaison for Buildings and Grounds. A few months ago Bill noticed that the long hedge on the north border of the church property had become a campsite for some homeless folks. The hedge was actually two hedges growing together, but separated enough to enable intruders to set up camp inside it without being seen. There he found vestiges of camp fires, drug paraphernalia, dirty diapers, used dishes, discarded clothing, etc. He also discovered that the campers had been cutting holes in the sides of the plastic hot houses belonging to the Grassroots Garden and using the plastic pieces as tarps for their sleeping bags.

Bill was especially concerned that the hedge was located right behind the St. Thomas Pre-School and the Community Counseling Center. Thus he recommended to the Vestry that the hedge be thinned out by taking out the half along the St. Thomas side while leaving intact the half facing our neighbors (the dentist office and the apartment complex), thereby removing the ability of anyone to set up hidden campsites. The Vestry was quick to approve his proposal, and Bill went to work.

With pruning shears and a hand-saw, Bill started taking down the hedge. It was slow work. Then, after he had removed about 12 feet of the hedge, an angel came along. That angel was Joyce Hecker, a woman who spends many, many hours volunteering at the Grassroots Garden. Joyce saw what Bill was doing and immediately started helping him. Together they completed the project, sometimes working together, sometimes individually.

It was a huge project, taking about three weeks and totaling about 75 hours of work. Bill, Joyce, and Bill's wife Shari loaded the debris and took it to Lane Forest Products--three loads in Bill's pick-up and two loads in the Grassroots Garden's large truck. A professional company the church hired hauled away more debris just before Easter. But there are still about six pick-up loads that need to be removed; volunteers are needed to help!!!

Bill's and Joyce's work is a classic example of how projects are accomplished at a church only by the efforts of committed volunteers. It is also a marvelous demonstration of how St. Thomas Church and the Grassroots Garden can work as partners in ministry. The Church, the Garden, the Pre-School, and the Counseling Center all benefited from this project. Please remember to thank Bill and Joyce when you see them!

Peace and many blessings,

Ann +



- 1) *Bill Janes and Joyce Hecker at work*
- 2) *A portion of the hedge removed*
- 3) *Some debris from the hedge*



The Pre-School will be holding its Family Fun Night on Friday, June 1. This is the Pre-School's major fund-raiser of the year, and volunteers are needed to help take tickets and other easy jobs. If you can give even just an hour of your time, the Pre-School would hugely appreciate it. For more information, please contact parishioner Laurinda Andrist at 541-344- 1849 or laurinda.andrist@gmail.com; or Rector Ann Gaillard at revgaillard@gmail.com; or call the church office at 541-343- 5241.

Ascension Day Service

Each year the five Episcopal churches in Eugene-Springfield celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord in a joint service. This year, Ascension will be celebrated on Thursday, May 10, at 6 p.m. at St. John the Divine in Springfield. The Rev. Ann Gaillard from St. Thomas will preach, and the Rev. Peter Fones will officiate. Dessert will follow the service. This year we will be collecting food for the Shephard's Table Food Pantry at St. John's and the PRAY BiG! Food Pantry at St. Matthew's. Please bring a can or two of food to donate to these pantries.

News from your Seminarian, Ryan Baker-Fones

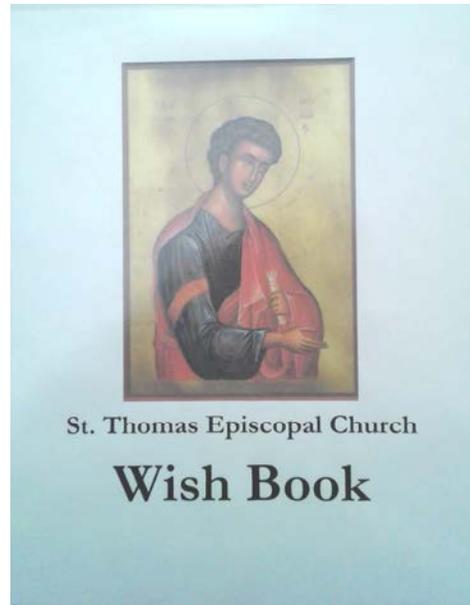


Alleluia, Christ is risen! Greetings Saint Thomas family! It has been far too long since I have given you an update on my progress and process toward ordination. Upon completion of this semester of school on May 15, I will have completed the second of four years of my academic work. To date my courses have included: Old Testament, Biblical Hebrew, Foundations in Ministry, New Testament, Church History I and II, Introduction to Worship, Organizing for Ministry, Introduction to Islam, Theology I, Christ and Culture, Pastoral Theology, and Introduction to Field Education. I am currently studying the second semester of Theology and Christian Education. Along the way, I have been involved in online formation meetings with other students every two weeks. Here we all log into Zoom video meetings. We can see each other from around the country (for the most part we are grouped by time-zones) and we share, complain, ask and answer questions, pray for each other and generally offer much needed support to make it through this rigorous process. I continue my sequence of twice yearly trips to be in residence at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, California coupled with online classes. I will next be there from June 10-24 living in the dorms and looking forward to recreating the special low-residency seminary community. My daily schedule will consist of: 7:30 Morning Prayer, 8-12 class in homiletics (preaching), occasional afternoon Eucharist followed by a shared lunch, 2-6 p.m. class in new voices in Anglicanism, Evening Prayer or Eucharist, dinner out at a spot near campus, evening studies and then repeat! It will be an intense two weeks that will be exhaustingly enjoyable.

I am so thankful for all of your support and the forming that you have done and continue to do as I continue to seek God's will for my life. Thank you for all of your kind words and encouragement (don't forget to give me some critical feedback too!) I truly feel loved by my sending parish (that's you!) and I am blessed to be in such a loving and supportive church family. I am especially thankful to our rector Ann for her taking an active role sharing, teaching and allowing me to assist in preparing the table for the Eucharist. It has been a joyful event for me. Thank you, Ann!

As I begin my third year of studies in the fall my focus will begin to shift from the academic and theoretical to the more practical and hands-on. While I look forward to this shift, it also means a change in my Sunday attendance at Saint Thomas. It is with a heavy heart and hope for new learning that I let you know that you will not see me around Saint Thomas very often next year. Starting in September I will be assigned to a different Episcopal Church in Eugene/Springfield to complete my required field education. This program will last one school year. I will do my best to make it to Saint Thomas when I can, but the reality of the hours that I am required to serve will make it difficult for me to make it back to the church that I love, that has raised me up and strengthened me along this journey. You will continue to be in my prayers as I hope that I am in yours. While I will certainly miss seeing you all on a weekly basis, I look forward to the chances for joyous homecomings on the occasions that I am able to return.

Peace and all manner of goodness to you all,
Your seminarian, Ryan Baker-Fones



New Wish Book

Look for the new Wish Book on the table in the Narthex. This book has a number of unbudgeted items that are needed at St. Thomas. Included are descriptions, pictures and prices. By sharing the cost or paying the whole amount of an item, everyone will have an opportunity to contribute to the Wish Book. Each need has spaces for putting in your name and the amount you would like to give for that item. You will be notified when the total amount needed is reached and then you can pay your part.

The items being placed in the Wish Book are shown below. If there are items you would like to see considered, please contact Rev. Ann.

- Hemlock bark
- Lenten season candle holder
- Outside cigarette receptacle
- Holy Water Font
- Pottery chalice and paten
- White chasuble and stole
- White burse and veil



Thanks
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Scenes from the Saturday work party

GrassRoot Garden Happenings!



A new event - Bees and Butterflies; Tiny but Powerful - will take place at GrassRoots on Saturday, June 2, from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm. This fun, free time for children 5 and up will include a talk with Jim Rundall about how bees live, bee hives and mason bees from 11:00 to 11:30. After a refreshment break, Lynn Negus will take everyone on a Pollinator Walk with tips about butterflies from 11:40 until noon. The day will end with activities, crafts and exhibits with Ruby Colette and Jamie Levitan. A very special thank you to Sara Van Dyke (a.k.a. Carrot Sara) for her inspiration, vision and efforts to create this lovely event.

At long last the Blueberry Patch has been planted! Iris Sayers was an advocate for the Patch for a long time, and she will be pleased to know that blueberries are in and growing, thanks to a generous \$1,000 donation from Windermere Real Estate.

Jeff Choate offered his consulting skills to guide the process of gradually lowering the pH of the soil and to choose the right mix of early, mid and late-season blueberries: Blue Ray, Olympia, Earli-Blue, Duke, Spartan, Jersey, and Blue Crop. Thanks Jeff!

Jim Rundall, Joyce Hecker and Gary Jordan contributed many hours to the project, along with other MGs and garden participants who helped prepare the three 50' beds. The next task will be to install bird netting and irrigation. Thanks to everyone, in 2 - 3 years we will have blueberries for pies and baking, jams and jellies, freezing, drying and canning, and for salads and fresh fruit throughout the year. And Iris - thank you, for helping make the Patch come to life!

The GRG Plant Sale and Fundraiser on April 7 was a big success. In spite of a windy, rainy day, we reached a new sales record of \$17,500 for GrassRoots and the Youth Farm. A big thanks to everyone who made it happen.

New Garden Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 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, please contact Merry Bradley at 541-484-7144 or merrybradley@yahoo.com. Thanks for your caring and support!



Pre-School's Mother's Day tea settings

COMEDY FOR A CAUSE

The Center for Community Counseling's
SIXTH ANNUAL COMEDY BENEFIT



Center for
Community
Counseling

THURS. MAY 17, 2018

THE HULT CENTER - Soreng Theater
Includes silent auction
Bidding opens at 6pm
Show at 7pm




Mike Coletta - LA


Brent Flyberg - LA


Becky Braunstein - PDX


Mohamed Elshisley - PDX


Beth Pinkerton - Eugene


Caitlin Weyerhaeuser - PDX


Julia Ramos - PDX


Emceed by M&X FM's 94.5 Liz & Reilly

Tickets \$36

Available at hultcenter.org
or (541) 682-5000

*All proceeds go to The Center for
Community Counseling - making
counseling accessible and
affordable for everyone in our
community since 1978!*

With generous support from our sponsors:

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Director's Circle








Grand Title Sponsor



May Birthdays



3 Larry Thompson
4 Lottie Rhode
7 Joe Konieczka
22 Paco Schiraldi
30 Mark Pezzoni



St. Thomas is having its annual garage sale on Friday, August 24th and Saturday, August 25th.

We will begin collecting items on May 28th.

This year we will feature a 50/50 Drawing, a Church Craft Sale, a Raffle and a Bake Sale.

So much fun!