

The Beacon

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

JULY 2018



From the Rector's Desk

This spring, the parishioners of St. Thomas were given an opportunity to begin engaging in discernment about who/what God is calling St. Thomas to do and to be, both now and in the future. This envisioning is part of a new approach to stewardship as the stewardship committee works on developing the parish's annual giving program in the fall. Your engagement is also providing helpful assistance to the Vestry's on-going conversations about St. Thomas' mission and ministries. At the end of April and early May, every parishioner had the chance to fill out a blue card, responding to the following four questions:

- Who are we at St. Thomas?
- 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 working in St. Thomas?
- What do we want in our future? What are our dreams for St. Thomas?

The first three questions focus on the *here* and *now*. Here are some of your responses to those three:

- Christians who come together to worship Jesus.
- A loving faith community, close like a family
- Fellowship. Accepting others and supporting them as they face life's very challenging events.
- We come to worship, share, and find strength for daily living. We seek to give to God and those in need around Eugene and the world.
- The warm welcome; the shared worship; the hunger to be more and to do more.
- Prayer, cooperation, hearing the word of God.

- Faith feeds us. The work that our congregation does to demonstrate our caring for others.

Those are only a few of the responses to the first three questions. But there were key words that kept recurring in all the responses, so I have created a "word cloud" that demonstrates the frequency of those words. You will find the word cloud on the next page. The larger a word appears in the cloud, the more often that particular word was mentioned in your responses. We will be posting the word cloud around our buildings, and the blue cards will be posted on the bulletin boards in the parish hall, so you can read more of the comments.

The fourth question focused on your dreams for the *future* of St. Thomas. Five themes appeared over and over again in your responses:

- Grow the parish (membership).
- More young people and young families.
- Financial stability.
- Increased diversity--Ethnic and LGBT.
- More reaching out into our neighborhood.

As we as a parish continue in our discernment, much of our conversation will be about how we all can address the five themes that were so prevalent in your responses to the fourth question. No one person, or one Vestry, or one committee, can grow the parish's membership, increase the number of young people and young families, stabilize our finances, expand the parish's diversity, or reach out into our neighborhood. Nor is there a magic formula for making these things happen. We must *all* be engaged in this work, by both prayer and action. It's an exciting journey!

Peace and many blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann +". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Our word cloud!



July

*11 Gary & Cindy Jensen
18 Burt & Sally Schwarz*



July

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

*Church Rummage
Sale*



*The Parish Hall continues to fill
up with items for our
upcoming sale!
Mark your calendars for Friday
August 24th and
Saturday, August 25th!
It will be a rummage, craft, raffle
and bake sale event.*



Thanks to all who participated in our recent Jerry's raffle extravaganza! The winning ticket was sold to Carolyn Cortege by Laurinda Andrist. We are delighted to say that we raised a whopping **\$2,310.00!**



You will see the "Thermometer Beacon" in the lobby of the church, showing how much has been raised toward our fund raising goal.



Grace Basket

You will also see in the lobby our "Grace Basket." This is for parishioners to bring in any new toiletries such as tooth brushes, shampoo, soap, lotion, hair conditioner, combs, dental floss, toothpaste – all that would be good to give to people who are in need of these items. Also, if you are traveling and pick up the complimentary shampoo/conditioner/body lotion set, bring in the ones that have *not* been opened.



Our congratulations to Duncan Murray! Duncan has agreed to take over the chairmanship of the Endowment Committee.

The Endowment Committee members are: Ann Gaillard, Beverly Jackson, Lindy Moore, Duncan Murray and Burt Schwarz.

Duncan is eminently qualified for the position and we are fortunate he has taken on this important task. We all wish him good luck as we move forward. Thank you, Duncan!

Did you know?



Gardens program

FOOD for Lane County's two gardens — the GrassRoots Garden and the Youth Farm — grow fresh nutritious food for distribution through the FFLC network of partner agencies while providing opportunities for youth and adults to grow, learn and contribute to their community. More than 2,000 children and youth visit the gardens each year, and youth and adults gain skills in gardening, nutrition, and community building.



The GrassRoots Garden is a 2.5-acre garden that includes a City of Eugene compost demonstration site and a full outdoor kitchen. FFLC staff maintain the GrassRoots Garden with help from thousands of children, youth and adult volunteers. Staff and OSU Lane County Extension Master Gardeners teach workshops and lead educational activities in the garden.

Where:

(Behind St. Thomas Episcopal Church)
1465 Coburg Road, Eugene, OR 97401

Volunteer hours:

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday,
9am – 4pm – Ask for Merry or Rachel.



www.st-thomaseugene.net

It's new, it's vibrant and we
hope you like it!



If you want to submit an article for the *Beacon*, you must get the information to me before the 25th of each month for it to go in the following month. Thank you,
Lindy Moore, Editor.
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