

# *The Beacon*

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
SEPTEMBER 2018



## *From the Rector's Desk*

A few years ago, I attended a Summer Collegium for clergy and their spouses at the Virginia Theological Seminary that focused on small, strong, vibrant congregations - congregations just like St. Thomas. What was made clear was that the sign of a strong congregation of whatever size is its willingness to accept change. Certainly, in the year that I have been at St. Thomas I have been impressed with parishioners' willingness to accept or even embrace changes in a number of areas.

As we go forward this fall, you will notice a few changes in our worship services. The first is that, although there will still be Sunday School during the 10:00 service, our children and youth will be more present and integrated into the service. The Sunday School teachers, parents, and I have been in conversation about how including children in worship is essential to the development of their faith and to their sense of belonging to a faith community as full members.

Another change will be the gradual expansion of our language and imagery when we refer to God. This past July, General Convention made a commitment to encouraging congregations to use expansive language, since God is a being who transcends gender. Currently, much of our prayer book and music uses traditional language, referring to God as father, king, and lord. Although we won't completely drop those titles, we will seek to go beyond them. For by expanding our language for God, we will expand our image of God and the nature of God.

Finally, an area of change that all of us at St. Thomas will be discerning in the coming year is how St. Thomas can turn further outward to increase our mission and presence in our community—in other words, how we as a parish body are being Christ's hands and feet in Eugene, especially in our immediate neighborhood.

As we work together as a small, strong, vibrant congregation, I offer to you a story I came across in a pastoral message written by the Rev. Bill Tully, the retired rector of St. Bartholomew's Church in Manhattan. St. Bart's is a wonderful church (I spent a year in my seminary field placement there) but like all churches right now it, too, is facing challenges and changes. Bill writes:

"You may have heard of the experiment with five monkeys in a cage: A bunch of bananas is hung from the center top of the cage. A staircase leads to the bunch. Very quickly, one of the monkeys spies the fruit and heads up the stairs. But as soon as he begins his ascent, the zookeeper sprays all the other monkeys in the cage with cold water. After a while, another climbs the stairs. The result is the same: all the other monkeys are sprayed with cold water. After a longer pause, as another monkey attempts to climb the stairs, the other monkeys attack it. They know by now that if one of them starts up the stairs, the rest of them are in for an icy shower, and they try to prevent it.

"Next, the zookeeper puts away the hose, removes one monkey from the cage and replaces it with a new one. Naturally, as soon as the newly-arrived monkey spies the bananas, he

takes off up the stairs. To his shock and dismay, he's immediately attacked by all the other monkeys. The zookeeper then replaces another monkey with a new one, who, like his predecessor, heads up the stairs. He too is attacked, with the previous newcomer taking part with enthusiasm. Every time a new monkey is added and starts to eye the fruit, he too is attacked, even though most of the monkeys that are beating him up have no idea why. "After the zookeeper has replaced each of the five original primates with new monkeys, none of which has ever been sprayed with water, something curious is observed. None of the new monkeys ever approaches the stairs in pursuit of the bananas.

"Why not? 'Because, that's the way it's always been done around here!'"

Bill goes on to say, "The deeper I'm drawn into the Christian story and the faith for living that arises from it, the more I know that the real gift of life is to be able to grow, to change, and to adapt without losing the essence of who you are."

Food for thought for all of us.

Peace and many blessings,

*Ann +*



## *September Birthdays*

- 4 Steven Payne*
- 12 Charlotte Heltman  
Linda Whitehead*
- 14 Dave Phillippi  
Burt Schwarz*
- 17 Jean Payne*
- 25 Harlan Rhode*
- 27 Garnet Harris*
- 30 Tilda Rhode*



## *September Anniversaries*

- 2 Andy & Laurinda Andrist*
- 7 Joe Konieczka & Anne  
VanDerveer*
- 9 Bill & Shari Janes*
- 11 Bob & Barbara Loomis*
- 12 Stue & Charlotte Heltman*
- 15 Mark & Debbie Pezzoni*
- 30 Larry & Nancy Thompson*

## Rummage Sale Update

We had a tremendously successful rummage sale this year! The amazing Debbie Pezzoni also organized a bake sale, raffle and 50/50 drawing so that we made a grand total of **\$5,770.00!**

We would like to thank everyone who participated, especially those of you who brought items to be sold. The list of volunteers is impressive - it **does** take a village!

Debbie Pezzoni  
Donna Hall  
Diane Landon  
Lindy Moore  
Judy & Larry Wilson  
Anne VanDerveer  
Sandra Murray  
Shari & Bill Janes  
Janet & Len Calvert  
Burt & Sally Schwarz  
Jane & Merle Spencer  
Jim Hall  
Beverly Jackson  
Ila Holmes  
Paco Schiraldi  
Kathy O'Neal  
Jeannie Shields  
Phyllis O'Neal  
Cindy Jensen  
Linda Whitehead  
Florence Litzenberger  
Sue Colvin  
Jean Payne  
Ryan Baker-Fones

## GrassRoot Garden Happenings!

*By Merry Bradley*



**Staff changes at GrassRoots:** Garden Assistant Rachel Mosley left her position at the end of August to prepare for the arrival of her new baby, Persephone, due in early September. Rachel has been with us as a Garden Intern for two years and our Garden Assistant for the past two and a half years. With the birth of her new baby, she decided for now to be a stay at home Mom and will not be returning to her position, but hopefully will visit GrassRoots frequently! We congratulate her on her new arrival and thank her for all the years of sharing her skills and hard work.

We warmly welcome Zoë Livelybrooks who will now be filling the Garden Assistant position. Zoë has been an Intern at GrassRoots in the Garden and our Outdoor Kitchen for the past year and a half. She also completed this year's Master Gardener training. Zoë is much appreciated by everyone at GrassRoots for her positive and friendly personality, hard work and passion for gardening, plants, good food and community. Please join us as we extend our well wishes and support to both Rachel and Zoë!

**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](mailto:merrybradley@yahoo.com). Thanks for your caring and support!



The outreach Ministry thanks you all for the school supplies!

The children to whom we donate are very grateful for the gifts we give them every year. It is a pleasure to make sure the young people we serve can start the school year off with all of the essentials they need to help them achieve a successful beginning in school. It couldn't happen without you!



Some of the Rummage Sale crew!

From left: Beverly, Donna, Janet, Judy, Merle, Jane, Debbie and Sandra



Mark your calendars for murder, mayhem and mystery!

**Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>,**  
6:00 – 9:00

St. Thomas will host a

“Mafia Murder Mystery” Dinner.

**Tickets are on sale until September 11<sup>th</sup>.**

Invite your friends for a fun, fantastic and fabulous evening at Mama Forchetta’s Italian Restaurant.

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