



# *The Beacon*

## *St. Thomas Episcopal Church*

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

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### *From the Rector's desk ~*

You are the light of the world!  
You are the light of the world!  
But if that light is under a bushel,  
It's lost something kind of crucial  
You've got to stay bright to be the light of the world.

— *Godspell*

These words, adapted from Matthew 5:14, remind us in a fun way that, although our light may be shining, “something kind of crucial” is lost if we don't bring the light we have out into the world for all to see, for the glory of our generous God and the building of God's kingdom.

This past year, I have seen that light demonstrated joyfully in our own parish: in our worship, learning programs, care for our facilities, and our service to the wider community. St. Thomas has long been a beacon of light on Coburg Road, hence the name of our monthly newsletter.

I am deeply grateful for the generosity of the people of St. Thomas, because when we bring our light out into the world we express our gratitude, confidence, and willingness to take risks as agents of Jesus participating in God's mission. In making our light visible, we keep our salt flavorful, as Jesus puts it in these words from *The Message*:

Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill.

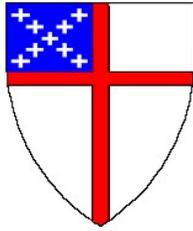
Indeed, our work, our prayers, and our giving are all about making God's flavors, colors, and love visible and available to all in our lives. And they are about our willingness to accept the challenge to stretch and grow, both into our individual purpose and into the mission of our church.

As St. Thomas embarks upon our annual Stewardship campaign, I ask you to reflect on the gifts you have received, and to consider how God is calling you to risk “flavoring” the world with your time, talents, and treasure. I pray that we will join together to give abundantly to bring light into our lives and into the world around us.

Peace and many blessings,



## Elements of Liturgical Worship



Each of the liturgies that we find in our Prayer Book or use in any form, such as the one we are currently using for the celebration of the Eucharist, consists of three elements: order, ritual, and ceremonial. This month we will look at two of the elements.

The ORDER of a liturgy is its structural framework, its shape and design. In the case of our eucharistic service for instance, its basic shape comes to us from the earliest days of Christianity. According to the Bible and other early writings, Sunday worship began with prayers and readings from the Torah and words of the prophets, followed by a celebration in remembrance of the Last Supper. This Liturgy of the Word followed by a Liturgy of the Table has been the framework for this service through the centuries.

The order of any liturgy is determined by an inherent logic in the ceremonies to be performed. In the Eucharist for instance, the bread and wine are first brought to the altar before they can be blessed and then distributed in communion. Any other arrangement would be illogical. Because of this, the order of a particular liturgical worship service rarely undergoes major changes.

The part of a liturgical service that tends to undergo the most change is its RITUAL. Ritual, in the liturgical sense, is the vocal organ of a liturgy, referring to the words that are said or sung. Christian worship is, above everything else, a communication of words – of God's words to mankind and of mankind's words to God.

The ritual word is uttered in many ways: in prayers and songs, in reading and preaching. To communicate the Word, a liturgy uses all the arts of rhetoric and of music, for both the spoken and the sung word are different ways of uttering and hearing the truth of God, each with its own particular kind of expression.

As one way of communication, music, for instance, has always been married to ritual in liturgical worship, for music is a universal means of expressing feeling and emotion, whether of joy or sorrow, of hope or despair. There is, however, no doctrinal significance between a said or sung service. Whether a service is said or sung depends upon the tradition of a congregation.

The spoken words of a liturgical service have their own particular ways of bringing us into communion with God. Currently, we are experiencing a return to a richer, more expansive use of language to deepen our worship experience in the eucharistic service format that Ann is using.

With the approval of Bishop Hanley, Ann is using the options provided in our Prayer Book and *Enriching Our Worship*, a book whose use was authorized by the Episcopal Church in 1998, for the spoken words that make up our celebration of the Eucharist. Some things don't change. The words of the Gloria or the Nicene Creed, for instance, remain the same. It is in the prayer elements of the service where discretionary changes may be found.

Ann is emphasizing the particular meaning of each Church season – Advent, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, etc. – by choosing the eucharistic prayer which is most appropriate for that time of the year. The Prayers of the People may also reflect seasonal changes as they include the special concerns of our lives in 2019.

A liturgy is more than the words we use, however. They are accompanied by things we do. Next time we will look at the ceremonial aspect of liturgies.

Barbara Root



## *Name tags*

Fall is a time of year when we at St. Thomas get quite a few visitors. It would be tremendously helpful if all parishioners wear name tags in church (and at coffee hour) on a regular basis. This is part of being hospitable to visitors and newcomers, who often feel uncomfortable not knowing people's names.

The name tag holder is in the narthex, so please put your name tag on when you arrive at church. If you have lost your name tag, there is a sheet on the table in the narthex where you can write your name, and a new name tag will be made for you.



## *New Deacon Assigned to St. Thomas*

Deacon Mike Watkins and he and his wife Lauri (also a deacon) moved to Eugene from Oklahoma this past summer. After a meeting with Bishop Michael Hanley and Archdeacon Carter Hawley, the Bishop decided to assign Mike to St. Thomas and Lauri to the Church of the Resurrection.

Mike and Rev. Ann are in the process of discussing what his role will be here at St. Thomas, in addition to his liturgical responsibilities. Ann views the role of a deacon to be one of partner in mission and ministry. Mike began his liturgical duties on Sunday, September 22. Let us all welcome Mike warmly as he will be a blessing to St. Thomas and our ministries.



The St. Thomas Outreach Ministry was happy to welcome Becky Stenzel, the Executive Director of Bags of Love, to its last meeting. She told the group that the sole purpose of Bags of Love is to provide necessities and comfort items to children who are in crisis due to neglect, abuse, poverty or homelessness. Through their unique distribution model, Bags of Love addresses the immediate needs of these children and helps support the community agencies caring for them.

Bags of Love now works with over 50 agency and school locations throughout Lane County and beyond. Bags of Love distributed more than 2,200 bags in 2018, all at no cost to its agency partners. While they are grateful to have accomplished so much in the past few years, they are always striving to increase the number of children they serve, and in turn, to improve our community. Their main goal is to be able to produce and deliver a "Bag of Love" to every child in their service-area who is in need. Each Bag of Love includes the following:

- **Handcrafted bag**
- **Handcrafted quilt**
- **Toiletry Kit:** tear-free shampoo, toddler-sized disposable diapers (if needed), Kleenex, soap, toothbrush, tube of toothpaste, hand sanitizer, Boy: comb/ Girl: brush and/or hair ties
- **Toys:** (age & gender appropriate) stuffed animal, books, & toys
- **Clothing:** (age & gender appropriate) socks, underwear, outfit (top & bottom) + extra T-shirt, sleeping outfit
- **Seasonal:** Summer: shorts, hat (if available) Winter: sweatshirt or sweater, coat, hat, mittens, and/or scarf

The St. Thomas Outreach Ministry will be collecting winter coats in the coming months to help them meet their winter production goals.

In addition, the Outreach Ministry will be collecting sheets, blankets and pillows for the **Home Starter Kits** from now through December.

We thank you in advance for your kind and generous contributions. You are wonderful and we are blessed!

Lindy Moore



## Endowment News



### *Scones, Marmalade & Magic Too!*

On Sunday, September 22 almost 40 St. Thomas members met at the 10:00 coffee hour to consider how Planned Giving to The St. Thomas Endowment Fund might fit into their estate planning. But they got so much more than that...



Beverly Jackson and her crew served up not just a High Tea, but elite PG Tips tea – poured, of course, from silver teapots and sipped from china cups. And we feasted on scones with creme fraiche and orange marmalade, finger sandwiches, cinnamon rolls and 11 delicious varieties of tea cookies. Thank you, Beverly & crew, for a job well done!



But wait... When did Holly Spruance become a psychic? Why was Duncan Murray's tie cut in half? And how did guest of honor Sara Brandt disappear? All was thanks to the hilarious magic of The inFAMOUS Lin DEE (AKA Lindy Moore) who, with her magic rabbit Pinky amazed and astounded us all as they unveiled magic tricks never before seen!

Then we got down to business, as Oregon Community Foundation's Sara Brandt helped us consider creating a personal legacy by including the Endowment Fund in our Estate Planning.



Finally, Rev. Ann reminded us that no gift is too small and that no one will ever ask us the amount of our gift.

As one member noted, it was a delightful, delicious and, best of all, highly informative hour.

Duncan Murray, Endowment Board Chairman

## *Sunday School News*



Our Sunday School youth are sharing their creative expressions of LOVE in a clothesline display on the Sunday School bulletin boards in the parish hall. Take some time to review the cards hanging on the line. Each child is represented with cards featuring their creative expressions of the LOVE they see and experience in their families, community and world. As Presiding Bishop Michael Curry says, "If it's not about LOVE, it's not about GOD."





### **October Birthdays**

- 13 Ila Holmes
- 15 Sandra Bristow

### **October Anniversaries**

- 1 David and Kelly Phillippi

## ***Center for Community Counseling***

There's a new face on the St. Thomas campus.

She is Debbie (Deb) Saunders who assumed the position of director of our Center for Community Counseling in early September. She comes to the center with more than 30 years of experience as administrator and fundraiser with non-profit agencies ranging from Boys and Girls Clubs to YMCAs and most recently with Southern Oregon Aspire in Grants Pass that went from a sheltered workshop to community-based employment for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Debbie succeeds Melissa Thomas, who resigned to move with her recently retired husband Steve to Grants Pass, their hometown.

Debbie, a New England native, moved to the west coast about five years ago when her daughter, Amanda, relocated to Portland. Debbie followed and became director of Africa Bridge in Portland serving children and families in Tanzania. Moved by the mission of CCC and to be closer to her daughter, Debbie decided to apply for the CCC position.

"I am so excited to be joining the Center for Community Counseling," she said. "When I interviewed, I met staff, volunteers, board members and interns. Those conversations were inspiring, touching my heart. The mission of CCC is so compelling, the work so rewarding; Transforming Lives and Healing Relationships is truly exciting.

I look forward to helping CCC maintain its excellence in service delivery and grow to serve more people in ways we have not yet begun to imagine."

Len Calvert, CCC board member



New CCC director Debbie Saunders (left) with Patricia Hasbach, chair of the center's board of directors. Also serving on the board are The Rev. Ann Gaillard, representing the Diocese of Oregon, and Len Calvert, representing St. Thomas. The center is an institution of the diocese.

## ***Healing Eucharist***

Beginning October 2<sup>nd</sup>, on the first Wednesday of each month Rev. Ann will offer a short Healing Eucharist with Laying on of Hands and Anointing for Healing.

The service will take place at 12:30 p.m.



## ***Celebrate Creation with the Blessing of the Animals***



Bring your beloved critters (leashed or caged, please) to St. Thomas Church for a blessing to commemorate the Feast of St. Francis.

Cats, dogs, snakes, elephants, parakeets, alligators, emus, lizards, chickens, plush toys and animals of all stripes and colors are welcome at a special service of blessing and prayers especially for them.

**Saturday, October 5  
10:00 a.m.**

## ***Confirmation***



Are you interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation? Or, if you have been confirmed in another denomination, are you interested in being officially “received” into the Episcopal Church?

*Confirmation* is the normative rite for baptized adults (i.e., 16 years of age or older) who desire to make a public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their baptism, following instruction in the faith of the church.

*Reception* is for adults who are baptized and who have been confirmed by bishops of other denominations in historic succession (e.g., Roman Catholic, Lutheran).

Bishop Hanley will be visiting St. Thomas on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and will offer the Sacrament of Confirmation/Reception at the 10:00 service. If you are interested in receiving the Sacrament, please let Rev. Ann know. Preparation classes will begin in January 2020.



## ***GrassRoots Garden Happenings***

Preschool Tasting Tours have been a delightful tradition for many years at GrassRoots. This year we had seven-week sessions in the fall and spring with all the St. Thomas Preschool classes and their teachers. Garden participants, including young adult helpers, often joined the group for our half-hour tours.

There were usually 15 to 25 kids at each session. We always start the tour by asking about their gardening experience with their moms, dads and grandparents. We ask what they grow in their gardens. Many little hands fly up when we ask if they grow strawberries or flowers. Most of the children have not experienced a big garden where they can see where fresh fruit and vegetables come from.

At the beginning of the tour we set the ground rules. No one ever has to taste anything they don't want to. If they do taste something and they don't like it, they can simply discard it on the ground where it will compost. With young taste buds and new flavors, one day it may be appealing, and another day it may not. Those that like it are welcome to have more. The kids are often reminiscent of little birds wanting more and more – even up to fourths or fifths! Those who are reluctant to try often venture to try something new after seeing their friends' excitement asking for the next yummy bite. It's an example of positive peer pressure. You can't get better flavor or freshness than fruit and vegetables straight off the plant. For serving safety we ask kids to put out their two hands and make a little basket. When we approach a new crop, we always ask the question, “What's growing here?” The kids make guesses ranging from wild to

informed. Then we talk about how we might eat the fruit or vegetable – lettuce, for example, on a sandwich or in a salad.



Obvious garden favorites include carrots, pea pods, apples, Asian pears, grapes and corn cut fresh off the cob. Surprise favorites were beets sliced micro-thin (which makes the beets taste sweeter and leaves a red color on their tongues, eliciting much laughter as they stick out their tongues) and rainbow chard for the fun colors, followed by kohlrabi and cabbage, which are crunchy, mild and sweet in the spring. Kohlrabi is unfamiliar to most, including the adults, but they love the crisp, juicy sweetness of this enlarged stem.

Occasionally, you have someone who when offered anything says, “I don’t like that!” The teachers remind them of their manners, so instead they say, “No thank you, I don’t like that!” A garden success is when the “I don’t like that” young one decides to try something and finds that they’re hooked in, in a positive way. We have a tasting bowl where we keep the knives and remainders of cut-up veggies. One tour, a boy who had refused to try anything came up after we had tasted carrots and tugged gently but persistently on one of the green carrot tops hanging over the bowl’s rim. After serving him some carrot slices, he returned again and again to tug on the greens and request more.

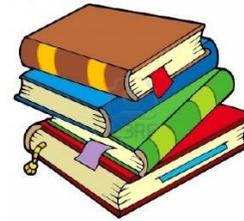
For kids who were certain that they didn’t like vegetables, this is an inroad and exciting opportunity to find that there are some vegetables that they really do like to eat. Kids that start out at St. Thomas tasting tours sometime show up at GrassRoots later in life as O’Hare 4<sup>th</sup> graders, St. Paul 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders, Marist high school students, or sometimes even college students. These students visited first with a tasting tour and had fond memories of the experience – that it was an opening of their minds and taste

buds that created a connection to the Garden. Some of them say the tasting tours had a lasting impact on their sense and enjoyment of food.

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](mailto:merrybradley@yahoo.com).

Garden hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. GrassRoots Garden is located at 1465 Coburg Road, across from Safeway and behind St. Thomas Episcopal Church. For more information please contact Merry Bradley. Thanks for your caring and support!

## *Book Group*



The Women’s Afternoon Book Group will meet at Kay Sunderland’s house at 2 pm on Thursday, October 24. We’ll meet in the church parking lot at 1:30 to carpool for the drive up the beautiful McKenzie. Our book for October is *THE GREAT GATSBY* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. We always welcome new members interested in books and fellowship!

Sue Colvin



Committee reports and articles for the Beacon are welcome. Please submit in a WORD document, New Times and 12 font, single spaced. Send email attachment to Cindy Jensen at [LAJotKDK@aol.com](mailto:LAJotKDK@aol.com) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.