



# *The Beacon*

## *St. Thomas Episcopal Church*

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

February 2020

Volume 21 Issue 2

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### **Vestry:**

- Sue Colvin,  
Sr. Warden
- Janet Calvert
- Dave Fredmonsky
- Bill Janes
- Ed Johnson
- Erika Hente
- Anne VanDerveer
- Sally Ward
- Judy Wilson
- Tom Whitehead,  
Treasurer
- Beverly Jackson,  
Clerk

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### ***From the Rector's Desk***

As I write this, it is still January—January 24th, to be exact. When I realized what day it was, I remembered that January 24 is the feast day of the Rev. Dr. Florence Li Tim-Oi, the first woman in the Anglican Communion to be ordained to the priesthood.

When I was in my final year of seminary, my class decided, as part of our class gift, to give to the seminary chapel an icon of Mtr. Li Tim-Oi. The statues, icons, and figures in the chapel's stained glass windows were exclusively male, so the class decided it was time to begin to alter the gender balance a bit. We therefore commissioned a gifted icon writer, Sr. Ellen Francis Poisson of the Anglican Order of St. Helena, to create the icon for us. We were in good company: Sr. Ellen Francis had written an icon of Florence Li Tim-Oi for the Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London, to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Mtr. Li Tim-Oi's ordination.

Already having been appointed as a deacon to serve in the colony of Macau, Florence Li Tim-Oi was ordained priest on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 1944, in the Anglican Diocese of Hong Kong and South China in the Free China village of Shui Hing during the Sino-Japanese War. Her ordination was conducted by Bishop Ronald Hall so that Anglican Christians in Macau could receive the sacrament of Holy Communion properly authorized.

Since it was to be nearly thirty years before any Anglican church regularized the priestly ordination of women (the Episcopal Church in the U.S. finally gave the go-ahead in 1976), Mtr. Li Tim-Oi's ordination was controversial and she resigned her license (though not her priestly orders) after the end of the war. Eventually, she was officially recognized as a priest in the Diocese of Hong Kong in 1971.

*Icon of the Rev. Dr. Florence Li Tim-Oi, the first woman ordained to the priesthood in the Anglican Communion.*



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Mtr. Li Tim-Oi was appointed as an assistant priest in Toronto in 1983, where she spent the remainder of her life. In the Episcopal Church, her feast day is January 24, the eve of the anniversary of her ordination.

I keep a photograph of her icon on a shelf in my office to remind me that if it weren't for women like Florence Li Tim-Oi, I as a woman would not be a priest in Christ's Church. I am humbled by that thought and grateful to her and all the other women who served as pioneers for women seeking Holy Orders.

Peace and many blessings,

### Endowment News

#### Rev. Gaillard Blesses New Legacy Society Plaque

On Sunday, January 12, at both 8:00 and 10:00 services, Rev. Ann Gaillard blessed and prayed over our new Legacy Society plaque.

Designed by downtown Eugene's Royal Awards, the cherry wood plaque features engraved brass plates identifying 13 individuals or couples who, by including The St. Thomas Endowment Fund in their estate planning, are members of The Legacy Society.

In the near future our beautiful Legacy Society plaque will be prominently displayed in our church. If you are interested in becoming part of The Legacy Society, please touch base with either Ann or me. We'd love to speak with you.

Later this month take a look at our new plaque – and picture it with your name on it!

Duncan Murray, Chair



Rev. Gaillard blesses the Legacy Society plaque. Photos by Larry Wilson

### Annual Parish Meeting

The gathering of parish members followed a joint service and brunch potluck on January 26 with Senior Warden, Erika Hente, conducting a thoughtful and efficient meeting.



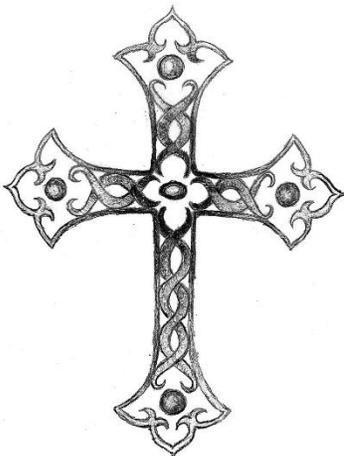
- The 2020 budget proposal was discussed noting the budget challenges that treasurer Tom Whitehead addressed by applying \$18,342 from the restricted account to cover the shortfall. The budget was approved with the caution that the need to make future withdrawals to cover a budget shortfall would exhaust the account.
- Sue Colvin presented an overview of the revised parish bylaws, which had been amended to be in compliance with the diocese and reflect how St. Thomas currently functions. The updated bylaws were approved.
- With the pending improved sound system St. Thomas will be an even more attractive facility for community and diocesan events. Parish members are encouraged to promote the rental of St. Thomas facilities as these can be an important revenue stream to enhance our financial health and introduce community entities to our faith community.
- Rev. Ann shared a document from the diocese that introduces the new diocesan logo and mission statement: *Celebrating God's unconditional love as we serve the world in Jesus' name*. This aligns with our St. Thomas mission. It is incumbent on us to shine our beacon by engaging with the greater community and sharing the love of Christ for all.

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- Rev. Ann noted that as a small parish it is *all hands on deck* and as such she acknowledged everyone for their various contributions. Special acknowledgements were given to out-going vestry members Diane Landon, Debbie Pezzoni and John Spruance.
- The Vestry for the 2020 year was installed, including new members Bill Janes, Ed Johnson and Sally Ward. Diocesan Convention delegates Mary Adams, Erika Hente and Sue Colvin (alternate) were elected.



- Rev. Ann closed the meeting with a prayer of remembrance for those parishioners who passed into our Lord's heavenly kingdom in 2019: Bob and Barbara Loomis, Larry Thompson and Dale Allore.



## Can You Hear Me Now?



Just in case you missed the message from Rev. Ann, St. Thomas has received from the Diocese of Oregon a grant of \$42,500 to install a new sound system and

videoconferencing system in the parish hall. This system will greatly improve the sound system in the church. Sue Colvin is gratefully acknowledged for her efforts in writing the grant. Credit must also go to Paul Colvin for bringing in an expert to determine what needed to be done and to give us an estimate. We also are indebted to the diocesan communications director, Heidi Pitts, for providing us with helpful information.



## Notes from The Parish Library

As I was browsing through the shelves of the library lately, I came across a book that I think many would find very interesting. It is The Episcopal Handbook.

Just about any question you may have about the Episcopal Church can be found in the section called *CHURCH STUFF*.

And then, what about the *EVERYDAY STUFF*? From coping with loss and grief, forgiveness, prayer and interpersonal conflict to how to take your faith into the world beyond the church doors, answers may be found here.

There is a section devoted to *BIBLE STUFF*. This covers subjects such as who wrote it, what are the most common translations, stories about the people in it, to what are the 5 biggest misconceptions about the Bible.

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The book ends with maps, diagrams and charts about religions of the world and information about the liturgical and non-liturgical Christian Churches.

All of this is presented in a simple (and sometimes humorous) format which will keep you turning pages to see what comes next.

Barbara Root

### ***St. Thomas Book Group***



The St. Thomas Book Group is reading the assigned book of the month, *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. The Book Group will meet in the St. Thomas library on Thursday, February 27 at 2:00 pm with Sue Colvin hosting. All interested readers are welcome to join the book group discussion and enjoy engaging conversation and fellowship.

### ***Men's Bible Study***



The Men's Bible Study Group visited long-time St. Thomas parishioner, Robin Barrett, at the Veterans' Home in Lebanon for their regular Saturday Bible Study session on January 25. They enjoyed a great visit and a tour of this exceptional facility.

## ***Sunday School***



The Sunday School children completed their Advent lessons and activities with a celebration of the birth of Jesus, the *Light of the World*. On January 5 Mason and Lucy Duer and Christopher Hente re-enacted the visit of the Magi to the Christ child with Emily Hente playing the role of Mary. The children presented the gift boxes they had made in their Advent lessons. These gift boxes were lovingly created and represent their gift of love, the greatest gift we can give.

### ***GrassRoots Garden Happenings***



As the growing season begins anew, we reflect on this past year. A change in weather surprised many of us in 2019. Over the past ten years we had evolved into more of a California climate, with short spring weather and a longer, hotter summer growing season. Last year, in contrast, felt like a throwback to our old Oregon weather. Stressed due to long holding periods, first rotation crops gave off chemical signals, drawing pests. Early season crops lingering long in the ground created delays in the planting of our main season crops. The delayed second rotation further reduced the time the main season crops had to produce. The overall effect was a decrease in harvest for the year, even with planned sequential plantings. Our usual strong yield just couldn't and didn't happen. *Continued on page 5*

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As we prepare for our next season at GrassRoots, facing unknown weather patterns and their consequences, we've decided to make a paradigm shift in our growing strategy. Instead of three successive planting sequences, we're going to focus more predominately on a typical main season growing concept, similar to what a home gardener would do. Plantings such as tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, zucchini, winter squash, onions, celery, corn and beans have the main priority for the season. Still devoting a bit of space, time, and energy to early, very short season crops like lettuce, cabbage, radishes, beets, chard, spinach, turnips, mustard greens, and arugula, we hope to elongate the harvest and make more crops available at any time. At the end of the summer and into the fall, we'll follow with later short-seasoned fall and winter crops, again radishes, Chinese cabbage, bok choy, lettuce, cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, kale, collards, chard, carrots, beets, parsnips, etc. The goal is year-round, sustainable food availability.

Because of renovations that have begun at GrassRoots, we're going to be reducing the actual growing space of the Garden. With less growing space, we have less latitude for factors beyond our control: weather, mishaps, and disease and pests. There's less room to adapt and adjust on the fly. To compensate, we're wanting to narrow and hone our focus, possibly growing more varieties, but less of some things.

With the main season crops having more of the center stage and time to come to maturation and working on an overall flow of other direct-seeded crops, we may not end up producing less, and may end up producing more. We should be able to experience higher quality and more control.

**Winter Garden Hours are Tuesday, Thursday and 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 please contact Merry Bradley at 541-484-7144 or [merrybradley@yahoo.com](mailto:merrybradley@yahoo.com). Thanks for your caring and support!



**02/02/2020** – What a great date! Not only is it very cool in a symmetrical kind of way, it's the day on which the Super Bowl will be played. At St. Thomas the Super Bowl also means "Souper Bowl." The members of the Outreach Ministry will be collecting money in soup cans for our annual drive to sponsor FISH for Lane County. They feed the hungry and provide money for petrol, propane, prescription drugs, bus tickets, diapers, etc., for those in need. If you'll be watching the Super Bowl, we will ask for donations of \$3.00 and if you are not watching, we will ask for \$2.00.

Every month we thank the members of St. Thomas for their continued support and their partnership with our ministry. To show our sincere gratitude, the Outreach Ministry will have special "Thank You" coffee hours on Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup> - one for the 8:00 service and one for the 10:00 service. As it happens, that date is also "Peanut Butter Sunday." Bring your creamy or your chunky varieties to a wonderful thank you event!

**"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever."**

With love,

Lindy Moore

***St Thomas Choir***



The choir rehearses every Sunday at 9:00 am prior to the 10:00 am service. New members are welcome to join the choir and *make a joyful noise*. For more information contact choir director Keri Davis.



As I reflect on 2019, there were some special events featuring outstanding people who contributed to the fun and the outreach of St. Thomas. A big shout out to Debbie Pezzoni for organizing our regular Bingo tournaments. She buys the prizes, provides goodies (with the help of the wonderful Diane Landon), chooses the games, brings the Bingo equipment, teaches us how to play the games (!) making it a great time for all who come.

And we cannot forget the outstanding job that the Charismatic Keri Davis and Beverly Jackson, aka Countess Beverlee Raskolnikov-Nijinsky, did at the Planned Giving seminar. Keri went on to outdo herself by organizing our first ever St. Tom's Coffee House Harvest Variety Night. All extraordinary events exhibiting the talents of extraordinary people. These happenings bring in newcomers to St. Thomas and have proven to be a great way to introduce them to our church.

Thank you so much. – Lindy Moore

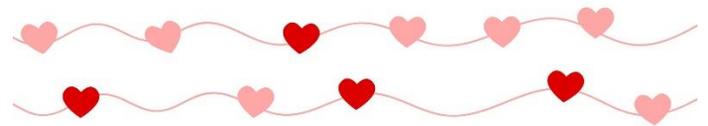
### ***Visitation of the Bishop***

Bishop Michael Hanley is scheduled to visit St. Thomas and officiate at the 10:00 am service on Sunday, February 23. A strong turnout of St. Thomas parishioners is encouraged as this may be our last opportunity to worship with Bishop Hanley before his retirement and to experience his wit, wisdom and spiritual encouragement.



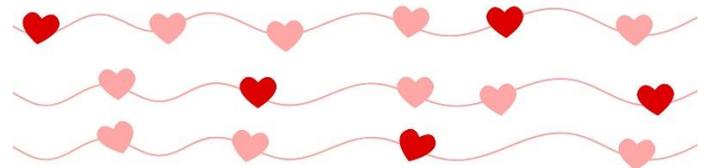
### ***Diocesan Workshop***

The Episcopal Diocese of Oregon is presenting workshops for parish treasurers, wardens, clergy, vestry and staff members throughout the diocese. A workshop is scheduled at St. Thomas on Saturday, February 8 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. In response to the concerns of parishes in the diocese who are considering or already undertaking facility rentals, the current edition of the Congregational Care newsletter provides the following article: "Renting Church Space: A Cautionary Tale." There are tax implications of property use arrangements. Therefore, it is important to consider non-profit entities compatible with our mission as we look at facility rental opportunities as a source of income for the parish.



### ***Bingo***

Another round of Bingo is scheduled for Valentine's Day, February 14 at 3:00 pm. Bring your valentine and join in the fun and games.



### ***Celebrations***

#### **February Birthdays**

- 10 George Lamont
- 19 Robin Barrett
- 27 Sally Schwarz



#### **February Anniversaries**

- 2 Tom and Linda Whitehead

## Reflections



The water is down in Fernridge Reservoir, the body of water I pass when traveling into town. But on early Sunday mornings when I drive that ribbon of highway that connects my neck of the woods to Eugene – if the light is just right and the wind isn't churning up the water – I can get a glimpse of reflected clouds, trees and surrounding hills across the water's surface. It is those peaceful drives that allow for contemplation about the community and social activities that pull me out of our woods.

I had been thinking about the faith community of St. Thomas and my need to stay connected to this parish and its members despite the physical distance from our home. And then Rev. Ann's recent sermon about the value of community resonated. As a faith community we cherish the small comfortable church that strengthens our faith and lights our hearts with the love of Christ. And yet, it is a light that shines brightest and best serves the Lord when it is shared. That requires engagement with the greater community, often a challenging undertaking for Episcopalians.

Just a review of the many and varied outreach activities of St. Thomas certainly attests to our efforts to engage in the greater community and address concerning community needs. The giving and caring spirit of St. Thomas parishioners inspires us to continue our efforts to reach out. Now the opportunity to open our doors wider to welcome community entities into our church to utilize improved facilities can only serve to brighten our beacon.

As Rev. Ann pointed out in her remarks at the annual meeting, traditional churches are feeling the effects of a more secular society with their declining participation numbers. But sharing the light of Christ is not limited to the space within the sanctuary of a church. Rev. Ann took a positive perspective in saying that we are called to an adventure, a new way of sharing the light of Christ. She encouraged us to pray, to keep our faith, to trust in God's promises and to engage in this adventure in a faithful community.



### *Dates to Remember*

**February 5 – Healing Eucharist**  
12:30 am

**February 8 – Diocesan Workshop**  
10:00 am – 3:00 pm

**February 13 – Finance Committee**  
10:00 am

**February 14 – Valentine's Bingo**  
3:00 pm

**February 18 – Vestry**  
7:00 pm

**February 23 – Bishop Hanley Visitation**



**February 26 – Ash Wednesday**



**February 27 – St. Thomas Book Group**  
2:00 pm – Parish Library

Committee reports and articles for the Beacon are welcome. Please submit to Cindy Jensen at [LAJotKDK@aol.com](mailto:LAJotKDK@aol.com) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.