



The Beacon

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

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

June 2020

Volume 21 Issue 6

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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

Rector – Rev. Ann Gaillard

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Beacon Editor –

Cindy Jensen

Webmaster –

Lindy Moore

From the Rector's desk ~

During this time of COVID-19 when we can't gather in our church building, the work of St. Thomas Church nevertheless continues, reminding me constantly that the church is not a building, but a community of faith, even when we can't be together physically.

For one thing, parishioners continue faithfully to tend our property, ensuring that the weeds get pulled, the lawns get mowed, and (alas) the trash left behind by our homeless campers gets cleaned up. At our May meeting, the Vestry and I decided to publicly thank our gardening heroes for keeping our grounds so attractive: Paul and Sue Colvin, Jim Hall, Bill Janes, Olympia Minard, Tom and Linda Whitehead, and Larry and Judy Wilson. In addition, Paul Colvin has been indispensable in dealing with security issues around the campus as well as working with the company that is installing our videoconferencing and sound systems.

On the financial front, several parishioners have performed heroically. Treasurer Tom Whitehead has worked tirelessly to ensure that St. Thomas remains on firm footing. After four attempts and more than 170 phone calls (!), Tom successfully got St. Thomas a significant grant/loan through the government's Payroll Protection Program to help both the church and the preschool with salaries, insurance, and utilities. Senior Warden Sue Colvin wrote and submitted our application for an emergency grant that the diocese offered to all parishes (and which we received) to help the church and the preschool with expenses. And Duncan Murray continued to oversee the status of our Endowment Fund (a not-particularly-fun endeavor considering the state of the stock market!).

Other heroes include Parish Administrator Donna Hall, who continues to come into the office to check mail and messages, pay the bills, and handle the other administrative tasks. Donna and Lindy Moore, along with the rest of the Outreach Committee, make sure that needy individuals and groups have their needs met. Speaking of outreach, Sue Colvin, Deacon Postulant Jackee Martinez, Lindy Moore, and Cindy Jensen have been making masks and distributing them to parishioners, senior living residences, hospitals, needy families, and food pantry volunteers and shoppers.

Music Director Keri Davis is another hero performing under extremely difficult circumstances. She is recording weekly meditation music and the accompaniment for hymns for our Sunday services. In addition, each week she is recording and emailing to the choir the voice parts and accompaniment for a variety of offertory music selections, so that the members of the choir can

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practice at home in preparation for when, someday, they can sing together in church. Alas, it may be a long time before that happens, so in the meantime Keri is undertaking a steep technological learning curve; she has agreed to work with me on transitioning to live-streaming our services and posting them on our Facebook page. She is in conversation with technological gurus in the diocese, attending technology workshops (on-line), and viewing on-line tutorials.

We have pastoral care heroes, too. Sally Ward, the entire Rohde family (Dallis, Harlen, Lottie, and Tilda), and Postulant Jackee have been sending cards to homebound parishioners. Other parishioners (Duncan Murray, Sue Colvin, Jan Calvert, Bill Janes, Beverly Jackson, Tom and Linda Whitehead, and Deacon Mike Watkins—and I'm sure I'm missing someone! Forgive me!) are regularly making phone calls to check in with people. And the members of the Prayer Team (Laurinda Andrist, Mary Lusk, Barbara Root, Lyn West, Judy Wilson) continue their good work of intercessory prayer.

This time of crisis has made us more aware than ever of our need to upgrade our electronic communications. Postulant Jackee is establishing for us an on-line, pictorial directory, which will be available on electronic devices but can also be printed in booklet form. (It will be password-protected, so that only parishioners can access it. We used the same type of directory for nearly 10 years at my previous parish, and it was never abused or hacked.) Deacon Mike has been experimenting with developing an on-line, weekly newsletter (using MailChimp), and is working with Lindy Moore on fine-tuning our website. Both he and Jackee have been emailing to the parish their column, "Deacon's Corner," each Thursday. Finance Committee folks Anne VanDerveer and Tom Whitehead are looking into the best way to set up on-line giving. And our wonderful Beacon editor, Cindy Jensen, continues to do an amazing job putting together her creative and informative issues of our monthly newsletters.

Our Vestry heroes (Janet Calvert, Sue Colvin, Dave Fredmonsky, Erika Hente, Bill Janes, Ed Johnson,

Anne VanDerveer, Sally Ward, Judy Wilson, along with Treasurer Tom Whitehead, Clerk Beverly Jackson, and Deacon Mike Watkins) continue to meet with me monthly or more on Zoom, to ensure the well-being of the parish. Speaking of Zoom, Zoom worship would not be possible without the many parishioners participating as readers, and is enhanced by Keri Davis's hymn recordings and Lindy Moore's production of weekly worship booklets.

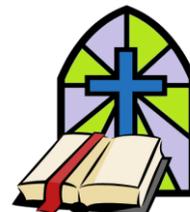
To reiterate what I said above, the past two months have only underscored what I already knew: that the church is not a building, but a people, a community of faith. Our sanctuary is a beautiful and sacred space, and I look forward to the day when we can worship there again. But "church" is all of us. I have listed here some of the St. Thomas "heroes" who have been helping to keep God's mission at St. Thomas going. But every member of St. Thomas, every single one of *you*, is a "hero" because of your prayers, your compassion, your reaching out to others, and your generous giving.

I am blessed to be your priest.

Peace and many blessings,

Ann +

In Memorium

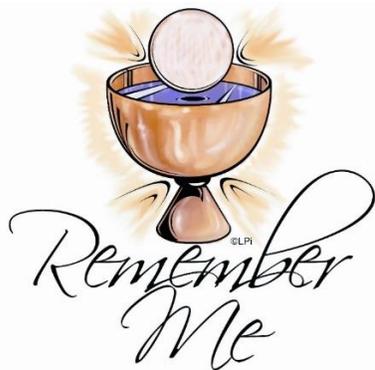


We grieve the passing of parishioners Garnet and Fay Harris, incredibly loving, caring people who were devoted to the Episcopal Church. Garnet died this past winter and his wife Fay passed in early May. Fay had been in poor health and was living with her daughter, Wendy, a retired nurse. She was surrounded by loved ones when she died. Wendy shared that Fay so wanted to be with Garnet for their 65th wedding anniversary in May, so Fay got her wish. Garnet and Fay were able to celebrate their anniversary together with God.

The Liturgy of the Table: The Great Thanksgiving

As I begin to write this final article of the liturgy series, we have been separated as a parish family for more than a month. By the time you read this in late May another month will have passed and we may, or may not, still be worshipping from home. In the meantime, I pray that you are finding reasons every day to be thankful.

Barbara



This is the liturgy that has its roots in the command Jesus left with the disciples and the Church: “Do this in remembrance of me.” This is the liturgy that we are waiting to joyously celebrate together once more on Sunday mornings – this is the Eucharist – the Great Thanksgiving.

The word “eucharist” is an interesting one. It comes from the Greek word “eucharistos”, meaning “grateful” and is akin to the Greek word “chairein” meaning “to rejoice,” characteristics that are abundantly present in our eucharistic celebrations and describe important aspects of the Church’s attitude toward all of life.

There are four Rite II Eucharistic Prayers in the Prayer Book for the celebration of this liturgy. Eucharistic Prayers A and B are the ones that are most familiar to us. Sometimes certain seasons or occasions deem Eucharistic Prayer D to be the most appropriate for our celebration of this liturgy. At St. Thomas, our priests have rarely, if ever, used Prayer C. Its format is different from the others. In addition, there are eucharistic prayers from approved sources that also may be used.

Regardless of the prayer used, the Liturgy of the Table follows the same pattern. The first thing that

happens is “the setting of the table,” so to speak, a necessary action for any feast. As the collection of our offerings is happening among the congregation, at the altar the deacon is getting the wafers (bread) and wine ready for the celebration that is to come. When these actions are completed, the liturgy is ready to begin.

The ushers bring the collection plates forward and their contents are offered up in thanksgiving to God as symbols of our lives and labor. Then, as in any liturgy, the Liturgy of the Table begins with a greeting as the priest says, “The Lord be with you,” and we reply, “And also with you.”

The Eucharistic Prayer now begins. The Prayer has two basic parts. It begins with the story of our faith, from our creation, through our continuing turning away from God, God’s salvific works leading up to and including Christ’s coming into the world, and finally the night before Christ’s death when he instituted the Eucharistic meal as a remembrance of Him.

This is then followed by asking the Holy Spirit to make the bread and wine holy – sacramentally Christ’s body and blood. The priest then asks the Holy Spirit to also bless us, uniting us with Christ in his sacrifice, and enabling us to serve God faithfully, bringing us to the last days with joy. We then pray the prayer that Jesus taught us – The Lord’s Prayer – which is followed by the priest’s breaking the bread and offering the elements to us with the words “the gifts of God for the People of God.”

With this invitation, we gather around the altar, the family of God sharing this sacramental meal that Jesus commanded us to remember him by. After we have all been fed, we join in the final prayer of the day, one of thanksgiving, and then the deacon dismisses us with the charge to continue Christ’s work as we go out into the world beyond the church’s doors. And so, having joined with our parish family in the celebration of this sacred meal, when the deacon bids us to “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, we can wholeheartedly reply, “Thanks be to God!”

Barbara Root



Endowment Fund News

First Quarter Results

Being a “glass half full” guy, my take on our Endowment Fund’s first quarter of 2020 is, “Well, it could have been worse.”

For the quarter ending March 31 the St. Thomas Endowment Fund closed at \$160,745.86. That’s down \$14,112.47, or 8.07% from December 31, 2019. The shutdown of our economy in response to the coronavirus wreaked havoc on financial markets worldwide.

Thanks to the wide diversification of our portfolio our Fund escaped the disaster experienced by many stock portfolios. So please join me in thanking Oregon Community Foundation for their cautious and careful portfolio management.

Turning to the bright side, during the first quarter we were able to transfer \$10,000.00 from our cash account at Columbia Bank to our investment account.

Now, as prudent investors do, we put the past in our rearview mirror and confidently look ahead for better times to come!

Duncan Murray, Chairman

June Birthdays

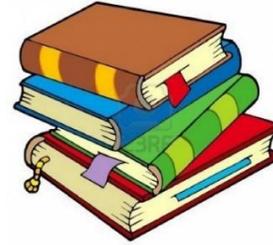
- 2 Lyn West
- 6 Shirley Collard
- 7 Lori Konieczka
- 7 Margaret Heltman
- 8 Beverly Jackson
- 16 Eloise Bushnell
- 17 Janet Calvert
- 19 Anne VanDerveer



June Anniversaries

- 6 Duncan and Sandra Murray

St. Thomas Book Group



The June selection for the St. Thomas Book Group is Anything is Possible by Elizabeth Strout. This dedicated group of readers will have much to share when they joyfully gather to recount the book selections they have been reading for March, April, May and June. An additional book has been circulating among the Book Group readers, one that was reviewed in the Register Guard. Sue Colvin referred to it as a “can’t-put-it-down book,” titled, The Book of Longings, by Sue Monk Kidd. If you are one of those following the book group readings, this novel tells the imagined tale of Jesus’ wife, Ana. We can look forward to some wonderful, well-read books on the book sale table once we return to attendance at St. Thomas.



Because of the stay at home orders and social distancing, the Outreach Ministry has not met since the shutdown began in March. Nonetheless, in March, the ministry was able to donate \$250 to the families of River Road Elementary School/El Camino del Rio. Realizing what a tremendous need there was, Outreach put up a \$500 matching donation fund for these families. Showing your typical generosity in times of need, you, the congregation of St. Thomas, donated more than \$2,000. We could not be more grateful or humbled by your kindness

I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. [Ephesians 1:16](#)

Lindy Moore

GrassRoots Garden Happenings



As the community re-opens with Phase 1 and Phase 2 of coming out of the Governor's *Stay Home, Save Lives* orders, GrassRoots Garden is aware that we're still working with the risks and challenges of the global pandemic.

- Though other community businesses and organizations are re-opening, they're still required to practice social distancing and proper safety protocols, necessitating slow and deliberate measures. So, it is for GrassRoots.
- Unlike restaurants or department stores, GrassRoots is more like a festival or sporting event in the way we've functioned in the past.
- During this emergency response, we're unable to go back to our past way of functioning.
- We no longer make up who does what and teach on the fly to scheduled groups or individuals that drop in.
- We deliberately and intentionally select and request assistance from specific people who have been previously involved at the Garden.
- With no drop-ins, Master Gardeners and participants come as individuals at scheduled times.
- We have begun to integrate a few new people at a time over a week or two period.
- Herbies come one at a time to tend the Herb Garden. A Seed to Supper instructor assists in the Garden. Individual Seeders and select, long-term Garden participants follow our orchestrated, structured and deliberate formats.

- While we ensure social distancing and careful safety protocols, we prepare and plant beds, teach interns and each other, and get the growing season up and going.
- Spring Garden hours: closed to the public until further notice.
- For more information, contact Merry Bradley:
541-484-7144, merrybradley@yahoo.com

Church Reopening



Dear parishioners,

Now that Lane County is in Phase 1 of reopening, several of you have asked when St. Thomas will be reopening. The answer is, we don't know yet. On May 18 Bishop Hanley issued guidelines for churches to reopen safely, and the clergy in the diocese have been meeting on Zoom to discuss how their individual parishes might approach reopening; as of this writing, I know of no church that is planning to reopen soon. I have created a task force of members of St. Thomas to meet by Zoom and discuss the bishop's guidelines. Any plan to reopen St. Thomas, both for worship and for building use by outside groups, must be approved by the bishop, who has stressed that we should be cautious, slow, and careful in opening up. Once we do open up, we will continue to maintain an on-line presence for our worship services, so that parishioners who feel uncomfortable about returning to church will still be able to worship on-line.

I ask for your prayers and your patience as we discern how to move forward, keeping in mind that in safeguarding our health and the health of others, we are abiding by Jesus' commandment to love God, love ourselves, and love our neighbors.

Faithfully,

Ann +

Reflections



No new *Virtual Hugs* were sent to this Beacon editor for sharing in the June edition. I like to believe that many of us are tuning into the online Sunday services, listening to the recorded hymns lovingly provided by music director Keri Davis, reading the weekly missives sent from Deacon Mike and Postulant Jackee, feeling uplifted by the weekly online messages from Bishop Michael Curry, and especially appreciating the warm and loving regular email communications from Rev. Ann. And in this vision in my mind's eye I see and feel the St. Thomas family gathered together in worship.

As noted in the message *From the Rector's Desk*, so many in our family of faith are actively engaged in sustaining the well-being of our parish life and St. Thomas facility. In a most challenging time these connections to our faith community are collectively a comforting and encouraging embrace – the best possible *virtual hug*.

Perhaps you are feeling that there is nothing new to share as the days roll into weeks and the weeks stretch into months – three months of social distancing, self-imposed home isolation, with only careful and occasional sojourns out into the community. If one is working or studying from home, then navigating all the technology communication systems to complete assignments is a time-consuming and sometimes frustrating effort. If children are in the household, there is the added role of educator to enable young, learning minds to continue to grow. Whether furloughed from your job, anxious about your shuttered business or concerned about a diminished retirement fund, there is no question that this extended international social

and business closure has had an emotional, economic and physical impact. So why bother with a hug, even a *virtual hug*.

Look around you! There are hugs everywhere, even in these grim circumstances. I am overwhelmed daily with the caring consideration of so many, including those in our St. Thomas family, who unselfishly reach out to those in need, homeless and hurting in our community. Health care professionals, service and transportation workers, grocery stockers and cashiers – the list of people continuing to sustain our necessary services is endless. The hand of God continues to reach out and embrace us through the caring and selfless acts of so many. So, yes, we are virtually hugged.

When writing the March Beacon – the first edition during the pandemic closure of life as we knew it – the maples outside my office window were gray and bare. By April tiny buds began to appear and by May small, tender bright green leaves coated the branches. As June approaches the maples are generously covered with lush and large green leaves. I am reminded that God is ever at work in the changing seasons, the emergence of new life into a full-blown Spring. Wrap yourself in the embrace of this glorious time of year, remembering always the grace of God, who inspires the helpers in our lives, hears our prayers for those in need of His comforting embrace and offers us eternal peace.

C. Jensen

Schedule for June

Sunday Morning Worship: Access anytime at <https://www.facebook.com/st.thomas.eugene/>.

Sunday 11:30 am – Zoom Coffee Hour
[Facebook.com/st.thomas.eugene/](https://www.facebook.com/st.thomas.eugene/)

Committee reports and articles for the Beacon are welcome. Please submit to Cindy Jensen at LAJotKDK@aol.com by the 25th of the month.