



The Beacon

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

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

July 2021

Volume 22 Issue 7

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From the Rector's desk ~

In the Church, the liturgical year is divided into either special seasons or what is referred to as Ordinary Time. Special seasons include Lent, Easter, Advent, and Christmas. Whenever the Church isn't celebrating one of these, it is Ordinary Time. It's the longest liturgical season, encompassing either 33 or 34 weeks each year. Ordinary Time is technically one liturgical season, though it's divided into two periods: the season after the Feast of the Epiphany and the season after the Day of Pentecost.

While the English word *ordinary* in popular usage describes things that are nondescript or dull, the word in the liturgical sense means “customary, regular, and orderly.”

For me personally, during the summer Ordinary Time takes on an additional layer of meaning. Although I'm always plenty busy at work in the summer, the long warm days of June, July, and August combined with the absence of major feasts (Christmas! Holy Week!) create a gentler, less frenetic pace. I have more thinking time, reading time, planning time, prayer time. I don't feel as pushed and pulled in a million different directions as I do during the rest of the year; I'm able to be more mindful of taking care of myself—eating properly, exercising more, getting enough sleep, spending time with friends and family, enjoying life as it comes.

In celebration of Ordinary Time, then, I offer you one of my favorite poems:

The Summer Day

Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean—
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down—
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.



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Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?

--Mary Oliver

Peace and many blessings,

Altar Flowers



Many thanks to those of you who have been giving altar flowers since we resumed flowers on Easter Sunday. However, there are lots of gaps on our flower calendar this summer. Spaces available are July 4 and 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22; and all of September. Please consider contributing. Basically, if we don't have contributors, we don't have flowers.

Endowment News

Looking Behind the Numbers

Sometimes I think I'm tossing out too many numbers without enough explanation. So today I'm going to toss out two more - with explanation.



Your Endowment Fund's total assets consist of two amounts. One is the Oregon Community Foundation investment portfolio. In financial terms it's called the corpus ("body") of our investments. Absent a dire emergency, we can't withdraw from the corpus.

The second amount is the Columbia Bank account balance. It's what we keep on hand for expenses and as a reserve. It's not part of the corpus.

As you know, we can begin making grants once the corpus reaches \$250,000.00. But since we can't allow the balance to go below that amount, grants can only come from income generated by it.

Your Endowment Fund's corpus currently totals \$245,156.21. The Columbia balance is \$3,384.58. So total assets are \$248,540.79. Does that mean we're only about \$1,500 away from our \$250,000 goal?

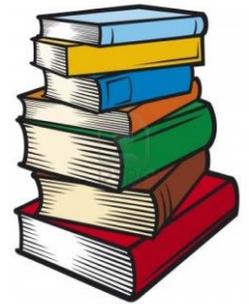
No - because the Columbia balance isn't part of the corpus and therefore doesn't count toward our \$250,000 goal. We still need almost \$5,000.00 to reach our goal.

If you have questions about this, please grab me at church, email me at duncaninsocal@yahoo.com or call me at 541/343-6975.

Duncan Murray, Chair

St. Thomas Book Group

The St. Thomas book group is enjoying some good summer reading. New members are welcome to join the gatherings or just read along with their reading selections. The July reading selection is *The Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger.



The next meeting is Thursday, July 22 at 1:30 pm in the Parish Hall library with hybrid capability for those attending from home.

Some Summertime Humor





Plans are in the works for the Outreach ministry to resume its valuable community engagement and assistance very soon. Meanwhile, please remember to consider Outreach in your birthday, anniversary and special occasion acknowledgements.

Sunday School Connections

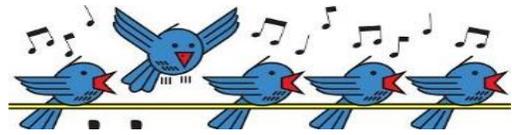


During this past year of interrupted learning for our youth, our Sunday school youth and families have benefitted from the activity packets prepared and sent out monthly by the Sunday school teachers. Most recently this task has been faithfully carried on solely by Judy Wilson.

After some hybrid school experiences this spring, our children are now on the traditional summer hiatus, though some are engaged in summer school and tutoring to help them catch up to grade level. The thoughtful parish prayers for our school-age youth is a blessing that has sustained and encouraged these young families.

If all proceeds well with the vaccination process, by September the Sunday school program will resume with in-person learning and our children will return to Sunday worship. We may have gotten comfortable with our quiet services uninterrupted by the whispers, wiggles and wonder of children, but let us welcome and embrace that youthful energy and happy excitement as our youngest parishioners learn and grow in their faith as members of Christ's flock.

Grace Notes



Editor's Note: Many thanks to Janet Calvert for sharing this informative feature highlighting the efforts of some of our St. Thomas *saints*. This is by no means a complete list. There are so many in our faith community who quietly give of their time and talents to make St. Thomas a special place of worship for our family of faith.



What makes your church, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, so inviting, welcoming and a place to help you find your spiritual self? It takes many like-minded people of good will. And do you know who they are?

The *Diva of the Daffodils*, Judy Wilson, cares for these symbols of spring and pulls distracting weeds. She gets "some" help from husband Larry, who helps cut back the foliage after blooming and covers them with bark-o-mulch.

How big is that spectacular display of daffodils? About 1000 sq. ft.; 5,000 sq. ft.; 3,600 sq. ft.; 2,300 sq. ft.? Answer next month. How big is your garden?

Does your lawn look so good? The landscape crew of Larry Wilson, Joe Konieczka and Ed Johnson mow, blow, perform needed pruning and weed control and supervise watering. Tom Whitehead applies the finishing touches by edging.

What about those planting beds around the church grounds? Linda Whitehead, on just about a weekly basis, weeds the beds, nurtures the plants and then cleans out the space between the sidewalks and parking lot blacktop to make that space almost weed-free. Have you noticed?

Our very useful kitchen is about 20 years old. Due to heat and general high use, some of the counter tops have come loose inviting further damage. Linda and Tom Whitehead applied new glue to the laminate which is now securely attached.

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The *Wizard of the Sound System*, Paul Colvin, makes sure our great new sound system is working each Sunday and explores new ways it can be used. Paul also knows who to call for almost any other building needs.

One of the major jobs before Head Start could prepare for their preschool was to CLEAN OUT THE STORAGE SHEDS, GET RID OF THE ACCUMULATION OF TOYS, EQUIPMENT AND “KID THINGS.” Many thanks to Anne VanDerveer, Sally Ward, Sue Colvin, Janet Calvert, and Ann Gaillard.

Beverly Jackson patiently typed and retyped the lease contract with Head Start and Dallis Nordstrom Rohde worked with the City of Eugene to get all the necessary permits for the new preschool.

If you know of other St. Thomas saints, please let me know.

Janet Calvert

Our New Parish Administrator Meet JB Hoover

I am delighted to be joining the St. Thomas community as your new Parish Administrator. My association with the Episcopal Church goes back to my singing in the men and boys choir at Christ Church Cathedral



in Louisville, KY where I grew up. After I finished college the Dean of the Cathedral recommended me for a fellowship at an experimental model rural community in the mountains of Japan founded by an Episcopal missionary. After my official fellowship ended, I continued to study Japanese in Tokyo where I met my wife at an Anglican Church. My wife, Adeline, is from a part of the Philippines where the Episcopal Church is strong. We were married at St. Albans Episcopal Church in Baguio City, Philippines with my soon to be adopted son as ring bearer. Our daughter was baptized in St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Davis, CA where I attended graduate school. A close friend and strong Anglican in Japan recommended

me to be employed at the Asian Rural Institute in Japan and our family lived there on campus for 12 years. After moving to Seattle in 2005 we joined St. Andrew's Episcopal Church where I was active in a number of ministries including singing in the choir and establishing and managing an organic vegetable garden. From 2006 until 2020 I served as Executive Director for a small non-profit. We moved to Eugene in 2019 but didn't find our way to St. Thomas until the pandemic had started. I look forward to getting to know you all and assisting Ann in furthering the mission of St. Thomas as I am able.

GrassRoots Garden Happenings



Thanks to the generous donation and efforts of Windermere Real Estate, who have been a partner, donor, and supporter of GrassRoots for over 15 years, the Garden has a new external 12x8x8ft walk-in cooler called a Coolbot. Assembly of the modular Coolbot was done on June 11th at their annual Windermere Day of Caring.

Nearly 50 Windermere employees came on the Day of Caring. They were our first large group since the beginning of COVID. Enthusiastic and concerted Windermere employees not only assembled the Coolbot, but also dug the trench needed for the electrical installation. The others from Windermere prepared beds, as well as planting, harvesting, and mulching throughout the Garden. They are a big force that every year help us get over the hump into the main growing season.

Our new Coolbot is a major Garden resource that will give us latitude in how we utilize our energy and efforts in the years to come. When we do large Garden harvests, we can cool the crop immediately in the walk-in cooler, instead of trying to find a place in the shape to safeguard our produce as we harvest throughout the day. It also gives us flexibility, particularly at the end of a very tiring and hot day, to be able to leave crops in the cooler overnight or over the weekend before taking them

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into FFLC. There, others can help us unload in the cool of the morning, rather than wrestling 1,000 lbs. of produce by ourselves at the end of a long day. This will allow our crops to be of a higher quality with less wilt and deterioration, and our staff to also sustain less wilt, deterioration, and burnout.

In the off-season of the late winter and early spring, when we're at the bottom of the harvest season, the air conditioner that cools the unit can be shut off, and a space heater put in. This transforms the cooler into a hot box, where we can germinate bedding plants reliably in half the time. When it's time to convert back to a cooler, we can easily sanitize the interior to again make the Coolbot food grade. This way it has a dual function invaluable to us at both the beginning and end of the growing cycles and will be in use all year long.

During peak times of the year, the Coolbot can also be used for orchard and root crops held back for cooking in the fall and winter months. In addition, it can house a backstock of things like Veganaise, nuts, and refrigerator pickles. During very peak, busy times, it will give us a little more latitude and leeway in our functions of the Garden and the GrassRoots Kitchen. It will literally be a very cool tool.

We want to thank Rich Heil, longtime community participant, Rocky Sigloh, Master Gardener, Dick Mombell, Ian Muth and JB Hoover, for their efforts in helping to create the gravel, cement, and cinder block Coolbot base. We give special thanks to Scott Weech of Windermere Real Estate for his incredibly instrumental role in organizing and orchestrating the annual Windermere Day of Caring, and generous annual donations. Their ongoing and continued support are a great gift to the GrassRoots Garden.

If you'd like to be part of our renovation crew, taking part in projects like these, as well as other renovations that are going to be happening this year and in the years to come, please contact Merry Bradley. This is a fun, valuable, and productive crew of capable people with building or construction skills.

GrassRoots Garden is now open to drop-ins high school age and older. If you have vaccination certification and are two weeks past your last dose, you can show us the documentation and go mask-free at GrassRoots. Those without vaccination certification will still need to wear their mask and practice social distancing. We welcome, and look forward to working with everyone.

COVID transition hours are T, W, Th, Sat, 9am-4pm. Closed F, Sun, M. For more information, contact Merry Bradley: 1-458-221-0652, merrybradley@yahoo.com

Reflections



It is hay season on our forest hilltop, and for this one-time city girl, the process never ceases to fascinate me – from the mowing, raking into furrows, baling, to the stacking and hauling away – I am captivated. And I might add, greatly relieved. Another hay crop successfully settled before the peak of fire season with an added bonus of satisfaction as our crop provides fodder for the neighbor's rescue horses.



As I listen to the hum of the tractors and watch the ever-expanding pattern of the furrows, I am mindful

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of the rhythm of the seasons – the flow of life – and ever grateful for the blessing of life immersed in nature. It always amazes me how quickly the fresh mowed field returns to a green carpet ready to begin the cycle again.

So, whether one resides on a farm, in a forest preserve, or in the city with only a small garden or a few potted plants on a porch, there is opportunity to experience the cycle of life in growing things. Immersing one's hands in the dirt, nurturing tender starts, enjoying the blooms or tasting the sweet fruits of invested labor just soothes the soul and elicits a wonderful satisfaction, even smiles of delight.

As a parish we can be especially proud of the GrassRoots garden that thrives on our St. Thomas campus. Not only does it make good use of our back property while providing us with a view of well-maintained beds, borders and orchards of lush greenery throughout the seasons, but the bounty from the garden helps to nourish those in our community who are impacted by food insecurity.

May we all enjoy this season and every season under heaven as we give thanks for the grace of God that enriches our fruitful pastures, forests and gardens.

Schedule for July

Sunday Morning Worship:

10:00 am In-person Worship and
Eucharist

Or access the live streamed service at
<https://www.facebook.com/st.thomas.eugene/>.

See the attached calendar for scheduled activities, meetings and events.

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

Computer Woes



Over the years the horror stories of a crashed computer have prompted me to back up my files, but not always consistently. Still I always dreaded the possibility of a technology breakdown. My trusty laptop did just that as I was getting ready to assemble this month's Beacon edition. With my flash drive not fully complete back up files, the very patient tech support of husband Gary and the use of his desktop, I have been able to piece together a July edition. Now I anxiously await the resurrection of my laptop before the August Beacon is due because working on a desk top stresses my tech challenged capabilities.



9	Jane Spencer
12	Sally Ward
22	Tom Whitehead
24	Merle Spencer



July Anniversaries

9	Ann and Lee Gaillard
11	Gary and Cindy Jensen
18	Burt and Sally Schwarz