



The Beacon

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

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

August 2021

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In this Issue:

- Rector's message
- Town Hall
- Outreach Ministry
- Endowment News
- Cursillo
- Book Group
- GrassRoots Garden
- Sunday School
- Parish Library
- Grace Notes
- Reflections

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From the Rector's Desk

Hard as it is for me to believe, it's been four years this month since Lee and I arrived in Eugene for me to take up my call as rector of St. Thomas. On Sunday, August 6th, we had our last worship service at St. Luke's in Saranac Lake, followed by a farewell brunch, and that afternoon we hit the road. During the next week as we drove cross country, Lee and I followed our usual road-trip routine: get up around 5:00 a.m., shower and get dressed, fill the water bottles with water and motel ice, drive for a couple of hours, stop for breakfast, keep driving, and check into the next motel around 4:00 or 5:00. Our trip took about six days and covered eleven states. We arrived at our furnished apartment on a Saturday, and three days later I started work at St. Thomas. Whew!

Certain things stand out from that trip. The wind turbines strewn all across Iowa. The ridiculously overpriced steak house in Grinnell. The cute diner in a classic small town in Nebraska where we had breakfast one morning. The rock formations in Utah. The excellent Mexican restaurant in La Grande. And on our final day, the gorgeous stretch along the Columbia River.

When we arrived in Eugene, it was hot and the air was smoky from the wildfires. But our apartment was cool and sparkling clean. When the movers arrived a few days later, we put most of our things in storage while we looked for a house, and we were fortunate to find one quickly.

Moving is stressful, but it's also an adventure. Being at St. Thomas has also been an adventure. You and I have dealt with tight budgets. We have lost some parishioners and have gained new ones. We've elected a new bishop and hired a new parish administrator. We quickly and radically adjusted to "being church" during a pandemic. We said goodbye to the St. Thomas Preschool and welcomed Head Start into our midst. You sustained me with love, prayers, and dinners when I was diagnosed with breast cancer and went through treatment.

Yes, these past four years have indeed been an adventure. As I enter my fifth year, I look forward to continued adventures with all of you, and I give thanks to God for you all—faithful parishioners of St. Thomas.

Peace and many blessings,

Endowment News

Meet Your Endowment Board

Over the last several months we've made several additions to the St. Thomas Endowment Board. Here they are:



Our newest member, prior Vestry member **Diane Landon**, brings experience from her career in banking and financial advising. Best of all, she's been married for 61 years! Earlier in 2021, **Lee Gaillard** joined our Board. As a former Marine and long-time educator and administrator, Lee brings a unique perspective and new skills to our Board.

A few months ago **John Spruance** became a Board member. John's a veteran member of St. Thomas who has served on the Vestry and is a LEM. He was also treasurer of the Secretariat for Oregon Cursillo.

Also joining our Board is **Tom Whitehead**, who served so ably as St. Thomas treasurer for several years. Tom brings extensive business experience to the Board.

Other members of the Board are **Rev. Ann Gaillard** and **Sr. Warden Sue Colvin**. And we're very, very fortunate that our clerk, **Beverly Jackson**, lends us her skills as she records minutes of each meeting.

Please join me in thanking the members of your Endowment Board for their service!

Duncan Murray, Chair

Sunday School



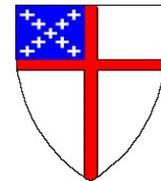
We are hard at work bouncing around a lot of fun ideas for the reopening of our Sunday School program in September. Our intention is to hold in person Sunday School. Once plans are finalized at the end of August, an email will be sent to parents describing what our St. Thomas youth can expect in the new Sunday School year. It has been a long year without the weekly presence of our kids, and we look forward to worshipping together again!

St. Thomas Book Group



The St. Thomas Book Group will meet in the Parish Library on August 26 at 1:30 pm to discuss the August book selection Running on Red Dog Lane by Drema Berkheimer. With this lively group it is not always about the book, but more importantly about the shared camaraderie of avid readers. New members are always welcome. And of course, you can always read along at your own pace with any of the group's book selections, which are posted in the hallway of the Parish Hall. The used books on the shelf in the narthex are available for sale with proceeds going to Outreach – 50 cents for paperbacks and \$1.00 for hardbacks. So peruse, find a good book and enjoy!

Cursillo



An Episcopal Cursillo weekend for all adults will be held Thursday evening, September 9 - Sunday afternoon, September 12, 2021 at the Oregon Christian Convention Center in Turner (just outside Salem). Cursillo is a ministry of the Episcopal Church, designed to give participants a lived experience of the love of God and the love of the Christian community. Many report that Cursillo wonderfully deepens their faith, empowers their ministry to others, and continues to nourish their spiritual lives. There is no charge to attend, and we will help you find someone to step you through the process. Simply mail oregoncursillo@gmail.com or call Kevin Mallon at 503-863-1973. Those interested in sponsoring someone to attend can find information at www.oregon-cursillo.org. To maximize the safety of all, participants will be expected to have been fully immunized against COVID.

The Parish Library is Back...



....not that it went anywhere, just that it has been inaccessible during the many months of reduced church activities due to the pandemic. But, as conditions have improved, we are now able to open up access to the library once more.

The library offers a great selection of books on a wide range of subject matter, and all parishioners, from our youngest child to oldest adult are welcome to borrow books from our library. The process is easy. Find something you would like to take home to read and sign it out in the register located on the left side of the counter. When you return the book, note the date in the register and leave the book on the counter for me to replace on its correct shelf location.

A recommendation for the lazy days of summer is a book with the intriguing title **The Sacred and the Silly**, an autobiography written by the Rt. Rev. William E. Swing, Bishop of California from 1980 to 2006. His life and work started out with the story of his 4-year-old self wondering what would happen if he let go of the brakes on his tricycle and went down the sloping driveway. He did – and oops!

Barbara Root
Parish Librarian

Grace Notes



July is the time of year when I harvest my “lavender crop.” It is by no means a large crop worthy of “farm” status – just three 4’ X 8’ beds – but, I am able to gather a considerable number of lavender bundles to dry for contributions to fundraisers or for making sachet gifts. Mostly, I just love the smell of the lavender and the meditative process of cutting

the bundles. I also grow lavender for the pollinators – the honeybees, bumble bees and butterflies. For the last few years, I have reserved one bed for the pollinators to continue browsing throughout the summer – a good arrangement as it keeps the bees happy while I cut their food source and is that much less to cut and bundle.



Nevertheless, the whole effort takes a goodly amount of time, but affords me the opportunity to enjoy my garden and contemplate the blessings of this fragrant herb. “And God said, ‘Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth.’ ” (Gen. 1:29) If we are entitled to a favorite among these divine blessings, for me it would be lavender. When I am cutting and contemplating, I often think of the long history of the benefits of lavender, for medicinal purposes, therapeutic treatments, food flavorings and personal hygiene.

Of all the historical references to lavender and the myriad of uses of this fragrant and beneficial herb, the story that touches me most is the legend of why lavender was given such distinction. Mary would wash the swaddling clothes of the baby Jesus and lay them on a lavender bush to dry. It was the saintly touch of the Virgin Mary that gave lavender its regard as a safeguard against evil. A cross made from lavender was often hung over the door for protection, and more than warding off evil, the people discovered that lavender appeared to guard against disease. The history of lavender is extensive, but for me, the soothing fragrance is enough as I cut away on my lavender savoring its rich sent and enjoying the variegated blues and deep purples of the blooms.

Outreach

We are back!
Yes, St. Thomas is resuming formal efforts to reach into the community outside our walls to extend God's love to all. We at St. Thomas are

doing our part as the hands of Jesus in this world. As you know the Outreach Committee was suspended earlier this year as some key figures stepped down from the committee and the isolation of the pandemic hindered the coming together to focus on the needs of the community.

The pandemic isolation is largely behind us and parishioners are stepping up to help guide the parish into serving the needs of the community. The Outreach Committee is reforming.

The committee has met once in mid-July. We are attempting to take two paths. One is to engage with our community neighbors as quickly as possible and the other is to define the scope of how the Outreach Committee will function going into the future. We have selected a theme for the coming year. It is "Our Neighbors". We also have discussed at least one event that melds with that theme. Details are very sketchy with many variables that must be addressed. We hope to announce it in the very near future.

Of course, input from every member of the parish is appreciated as is the involvement of many people as the events and ministries are revealed.

Members of the committee are:

- Keri Davis
- Erika Hente
- Diana Garcia
- Sally Ward
- Anne Vanderveer
- Tricia Crisafulli
- Joe Tulacz
- Mike Watkins

Any one interested in participating in the group can contact any of the group.

Peace....



GrassRoots Garden Happenings



The last few years have been filled with many challenges at GrassRoots. Beyond the pandemic and staff changes, we've also grappled with a number of different pest and disease problems. In the pest category, notably, are wire worms. This is an issue we've now worked with for many years. We feel we currently have a very accurate identification, which gives us an understanding of how the wire worms came to the Garden and the damage they do. We've identified life cycles, as well as developed strategies for reducing their numbers, thereby hopefully gradually improving the situation.

In this article, we will address how the wire worms originally came to the Garden, what we know about them and the damage done. In our September article, we will address what we are doing to get beyond this problem.

First, where did the wire worms at GrassRoots come from? Many years ago, possibly as much as 10 years ago, we brought in a load of manure which had many beetles in it. In hindsight, I remember these beetles had made a clicking sound. Though I had had no prior experience with this beetle, I wondered about them. I had previously been used to seeing dung beetles in loads of manure and didn't think of beetles in manure as necessarily a negative or bad thing. At the time, this manure was used in different places around the Garden. After the manure was applied, I just didn't think about it.

Several years later, we started having problems with a larva that were getting into peppers. Where a pepper touched the ground, the larva made a hole and entered the pepper. When you could cut the pepper open, you'd find 5 to 10 larva inside. Still later, we found that we had brassicas, particularly cabbages, dying off as young transplants one after another in growing beds. Some plants that sized up, would later wither and die. About three years ago,

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

we assessed the situation with Ross Penhallegon, and together determined that it was the larva of the velvet ground beetle.

Last year, when given more information, we realized our original identification had been incorrect. We now know that the larva is called a wire worm, the larva of the click beetle. The click beetle is a black, bullet-shaped beetle, that when distressed, makes a clicking sound, hence its name. Its larva is an orange to reddish color, pointed, and clearly segmented. They range in size from 1/4 inch to 1.25 inches long. Moreover, we learned that the larva can live and continue feeding on plant matter in the soil for up to seven years!

Crops that have been severely impacted by wire worms at GrassRoots are cabbages, potatoes, zucchini plants, and peppers. On cabbages, the larva feed on the root balls as well as chisel at the stem at ground level, killing the plant. It's not uncommon for wire worms, if undeterred, to take out 1/2 to 3/4 of a bed of cabbage, killing off plants as young as recent transplants to nearly fully mature plants. Wire worms attack the plant in numbers ranging from 4 to 6, and at times up to as many as 30 or more on a larger plant. Of these 30 wire worms, there may be 15 in the root zone and another 15 chiseling at the stem at ground level.

On zucchini, they again feed on roots, as well as burrow into the stems, making the plant wilt and die. So far this season, they've taken out 1/4-1/3 of our patch. It's not uncommon to have 10-15 plants killed off per week. On potatoes, there will be several working their way into each potato and eating the flesh. Sometimes the potato then rots. On peppers, as noted above, when the plant grows and the mature peppers touch the ground, wire worms eat holes into the bottom of the pepper and go up inside it. We usually will find 5-10 or more wire worms in a single pepper. The damaged pepper, if left on the plant, tends to rot. We've also begun to see damage on onions, again with the wire worms eating roots of the young onion plants, and the young bulb subsequently rotting.

Another characteristic of wire worms is that they seem to really like compost. Over the winter, we found large populations in our compost piles. In areas where we've recently sheet composted, the wire worms have become very large and plump. With the understanding that wire worms like humus-y compost and organic matter, our rich, humus-y garden beds are a perfect habitat.

To be continued.... In next month's article, strategies for reducing wire worm populations.

GrassRoots Garden is now open to drop-ins high school age and older. No masks or vaccination verification required. COVID transition hours: T, W, Th, Sat, 9 to 4. Closed Fri, Sun, Mon. For more information, contact Merry Bradley at 458-221-0652 or merrybradley@yahoo.com.

Masks are Back!

The Oregon Health Authority is recommending that all individuals wear masks



in public spaces, even if they are vaccinated. The Diocese of Oregon has stated that parishes in the Diocese are to follow Oregon Health Authority guidelines; therefore, Rev. Ann is making the same recommendation as OHA. Although it is a recommendation only and not a requirement, Rev. Ann will be wearing a mask in church, except when preaching or celebrating. While it is frustrating to go back to mask-wearing after the relative freedom of the last few weeks, we need to keep ourselves safe and keep others safe as well.



Parish Town Hall

There will be a very special Town Hall this coming Sunday, August 1, during coffee hour following our 10:00 service. The purpose of the Town Hall is to present the outcomes of the Mutual Ministry Review (MMR) that the St. Thomas Vestry and clergy undertook with the guidance of our facilitator, Dan Martin, a skilled and experienced consultant. The purpose of the MMR was to reflect on the past two years in terms of how the Rector, Vestry and congregation have lived out our ministries together. We looked at what we could glean from what happened over these years and discussed creative ways to engage in our ministries as we move into the future.

In preparation for the MMR, the Vestry answered several questions in writing which Dan collated and which we then shared during the MMR. For the MMR itself, we spent six hours on a July Saturday discussing, listening, brainstorming, and goal-setting. As Vestry members and clergy, we are eager to share the fruits of our MMR with all of the congregation, in order to receive your feedback, answer questions, and embrace your suggestions as we all at St. Thomas move forward as a parish.



August Birthdays

- | | |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 14 | Len Calvert |
| 16 | Judy Wilson |
| 19 | Dan Paulson
Andy Andrist |
| 23 | Katrina Jensen |

Reflections



A recent visit to the Oregon Coast has inspired this reflection, so in this edition of the Beacon, you are getting a double dose of lighthouse images. Why? Because this editor loves lighthouses and all they represent. It is not just the practical benefit of the guiding light that leads vessels away from hazards and into safer seas, but all the ancillary services of the lighthouse, as well. Our parish has aptly named our newsletter *The Beacon* for this monthly missive features our parish efforts to offer a place of shared worship, a refuge of hope and renewal and an opportunity for community engagement – all inspired by our Lord’s guiding light.

While they still provide that necessary warning light, today’s lighthouses are mostly automated and often relegated to historical tourist sites operated by designated park hosts. But their history tells a far more dramatic story of all the benefits the chain of lighthouses provided to travelers along our rugged coastlines. The lightkeepers service was a noble commitment demanding considerable physical strength, courage and dedication often with long periods of isolation. Beyond the demands of tending the light and maintaining the equipment in difficult weather conditions, there was also the need to “man” the lifeboats in the event of an accident in the raging surf amid the shoals and crags of a rugged coastline.

As a young girl I listened to stories my father would share of the lifeboat rescues off the coast near San Francisco. A painting in my grandfather’s home depicted a dramatic lifeboat rescue and that image captivated my young girl’s attention. Imagine the self-sacrificing effort and strength it required of the lightkeepers to battle the surf and reach a ship in distress. It was only recently that I learned that the lifeboat crews were not exclusively men.

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

Lighthouses were often supported by whole families, and wives and daughters took their turn attending the light or supporting the lifeboat rescues.

I enjoy sharing different pictures of lighthouses in Beacon issues. If you have lighthouse pictures in a jpeg format, please consider sharing them in the Beacon by sending them to my email (LAJotKDK@aol.com).

By our faith in Jesus Christ, we are imbued with His light, and each of us as members of St. Thomas reflect that light as beacons of faith, hope and love.

Author's note: Books about lighthouses you might enjoy reading:

The Lightkeeper's Daughters

By Jean E. Pendziwol

The English Wife

by Adrienne Chinn

The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter

by Hazel Gaynor

The Light Between Oceans

by M.L. Stedman

Schedule for August

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.

