



The Beacon

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

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

October 2022

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- Jon Davies, Jr. Warden
- Diana Garcia
- Cindy Jensen
- Ed Johnson
- Linda Whitehead
- Anne VanDerveer, Treasurer
- Beverly Jackson, Clerk

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From the Rector's Desk

It's a beautiful fall day as I write this. I love this time of year with its cool nights, sunny, warm days, and the leaves just beginning to turn. Although we're three quarters into the year, autumn always feels like a season of new beginnings. As I look out my office window, I see the Head Start children running around the playground shrieking in glee. I see the green houses of the Grassroots Garden, which is packed with volunteers busily harvesting the latest crops of tomatoes, squashes, even corn. I can even catch a glimpse of the Center for Community Counseling, where a new group of interns has just joined the professional volunteer staff in providing much-needed mental health services to clients. And of course we've begun a new program year, with the choir returning, seasonal changes in the Eucharistic Prayer and service music, and planning underway for Advent programming and even Christmas services. And of course, fall is the season when we hold our Annual Giving Stewardship campaign so that we can put together the 2023 budget.

Last year our Stewardship theme was *St. Thomas: Worshiping, Feeding, Nurturing, Healing*. The Stewardship Committee and I stressed how St. Thomas as a faith community is a place of worship, along with the Grassroots Garden feeding our neighbors, Head Start nurturing young children and their families, and the Center for Community Counseling providing healing to so many in distress. All these things are still true.

Upon further reflection, however, I believe that all these aspects—worshiping, feeding, nurturing, and healing—are integral to the parish of St. Thomas and always have been, long before a preschool, the Garden, and the CCC were established on our campus. Our very worship feeds, nurtures, and heals us. We are spiritually fed, nurtured, and healed by the bread and wine, the music, the prayers, the homilies, the exchange of the Peace, and the sheer fellowship of coming together as the Body of Christ.

In addition, outside our Sunday services we worship, feed, nurture, and heal as well. Through our Outreach program and our contributions to the St. John's food pantry we feed others, along with helping others with shelter and clothing. Our Men's Bible Study and other programs for adults and children

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nurture parishioners' spiritual development. Our Prayer Team is a healing ministry, as is our Creation Care ministry. And because ours is an incarnational faith, we believe anything we do to serve others and all of creation is an act of love for God, and therefore is an act of worship.

So this year the Stewardship Team, led by Senior Warden Len Calvert, has decided to retain last year's Stewardship theme. Later in October, you will hear from parishioners about giving to St. Thomas and you will receive your 2023 estimated giving certificates. Our goal as always is to have those certificates returned by November 6th, All Saints' Sunday, so that we can bless them at the altar and begin our budget planning.

During October, then, I hope you will take some time prayerfully to reflect on the role St. Thomas plays in your life in worshiping, feeding, nurturing, and healing, and will then find it in your hearts to give generously in 2023 so that St. Thomas can continue doing all it does out of love for God in Christ.

Peace and many blessings,

Endowment News

Time To Join the Legacy Society?

Have you considered joining The St. Thomas Endowment Fund Legacy Society? Today may be a good time to think about it.



Members of the Legacy Society are those of us who have chosen to remember The Endowment Fund in our estate planning.

There are several reasons why you might want to join our Legacy Society. Here are a few:

- Create a lasting personal legacy;
- Thank St. Thomas for what it has meant to you during your lifetime;
- Create new ministries;

- Dedicate your bequest to the memory of a loved one;
- Reduce taxes for your heirs.

Check out the Legacy Society plaque on the wall next to the church office and you'll see that several of your fellow parishioners are already members.

I hope you'll think and pray about joining your St. Thomas friends in this important ministry. Should you wish, you may join anonymously.

Please share your questions or concerns about joining our Legacy Society with either Rev. Ann or me (541/343-6975). We look forward to speaking with you.

Duncan Murray, Chair

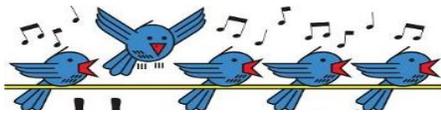
St. Thomas Book Group



The ever-reliable readers of the St. Thomas Ladies Book Group will meet on Thursday, October 27 at 1:30 pm in the parish library with hybrid capabilities in place for those joining in from home. The October selection is Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman. If you have never attended a St. Thomas Book Group gathering of enthusiastic readers, you should know that these events are lively affairs open to women interested in reading and conversing about the books selected for discussion. Newcomers are welcome.



Grace Notes



It is always gratifying to know that one's effort to compile, compose and layout a publication is not just read, but that the writings resonate with the readers. Several parishioners did indeed read the September 2022 Beacon and expressed appreciation. Grace is sincerely felt in thoughtful acknowledgement. And for one faithful reader the *Reflections* especially resonated. Lee Guillard reminded this editor of an e.e. cummings' sonnet that expresses the message of that *Reflection* with beautiful simplicity. With thanks to Lee and e.e. cummings it is reprinted here.

i thank You God for most this amazing
day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes
(i who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth
day of life and of love and wings: and of the gay
great happening illimitably earth)
how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any—lifted from the no
of all nothing—human merely being
doubt unimaginable You?
(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

e.e.cummings

Outreach

The Outreach committee has been in contact with the rectors at St. John the Divine and Resurrection churches regarding the shelter programs they sponsor.

Rev. Ann proposed that the Outreach Committee address the needs of these programs that provide shelter services to the unhoused in the community. The Outreach committee voted to provide a one-time donation of \$500 to each church in support of their shelter projects.

Looking ahead to Thanksgiving, \$500 from the Outreach account will be contributed to One Hope Thanksgiving boxes. A team will be organized to assist with packing boxes. Outreach funds will be



used to provide Christmas gift bags, including sweat suits and small toys, for the children attending Head Start at St. Thomas. Parishioners will be enlisted to assist with shopping for these items with an approximate expenditure of \$1600 - \$2000. In addition, Outreach funds will be contributed to United Way of Lane County for Cedar Creek Fire disaster relief in the amount of \$500; and, to Episcopal Relief and Development for Ukraine disaster relief in the amount of \$500.

It is gratifying to know that as a parish we are able to provide this substantial *outreach* due to the allocation to Outreach in our 2022 budget as well as additional contributions from parishioners.

Center for Community Counseling

Wine is on our minds as we plan for the April 13th Major Donor Wine Tasting launching our "**Legacy Society.**" We have developed our giving levels (**Empower, Uplift, Encourage, Support, Engage**-ranging from \$300 - \$5000 annually) which will give donors various levels to pick from for a three-year pledge commitment. We have identified our major donors and are seeking to recruit a person(s) from amongst that group to become Chairperson or Co-Chairperson. We have secured Civic Winery and will be asking them to donate a percentage of wine sales to CCC during the event. A raffle is being planned and sponsors will be approached to underwrite the costs. Save the date cards will be sent around November 1st with invitations sent February 1st. The design of all printed materials has also begun. This is a great opportunity for us to secure funding, increase donor giving and steward our donors for support throughout the year including the fall Fashion Show.

Our new cohort of interns has joined us and finished orientation and training. The new interns are excited to get going with their new caseload. We are taking care to match clients and interns in a manner that allows them both to be successful. We are currently full. It has been a relief to have the resources to offer eight new intakes in September.

We are waiting for grant decisions from several funders; some will make decisions in October and some in November. We submitted two grant

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applications this month and have three due in October.

We hired a new 8-10 hours per week Administrative Assistant, Romelle Renner. Her primary duties will be to manage Quickbooks and Giftworks as well as support newsletters, mailings, events, etc.

Debbie Saunders, Executive Director
Nasim May, Clinical Director

Newcomers Welcome Celebration



It was a special joy to finally be able to officially celebrate our wonderful *newcomers* to St. Thomas. As with so many things, COVID interfered with our good intentions to celebrate the couples and individuals who have joined our faith community over the last two years. A festive coffee and conversation time was enjoyed after the service on Sunday, September 18. Wonderful things happen at St. Thomas because of the dedication of so many. For this event Rev. Ann, Beverly Jackson, Anne Vanderveer, Diane Landon, Linda Whitehead, Sue Colvin and Cindy Jensen worked together to set up for the event, provide food and beverages and clean up. Janet Calvert created a colorful floral arrangement with flowers from her garden to grace the buffet counter. The spirit of our faith community was on full display as we welcomed our *newcomers* and demonstrated how we at St. Thomas work together to share His love.



Smiles and fellowship shared with our St. Thomas *newcomers*.

GrassRoots Garden

In Memory of Lynn Negus
September 4, 1939 to September 3, 2022

Celebrating Lynn Negus and appreciating all she has given to GrassRoots Garden, to the people of the Garden, to the greater community and to the planet.



Since 2001, Lynn helped to transform GrassRoots Garden into the thriving community it is today by creating resource support, developing demonstration gardens, strengthening our ties to the Master Gardener program, and recruiting and recognizing volunteers and donors. Lynn created and coordinated the Adopt a Plot program, an annual membership drive that annually raised up to \$6,000 for the Garden and connected 100 community members to our work. She took countless photos of garden activities and participants and created a DVD that she used for promotional purposes as well as a thank you gift for donors. She was a team leader for groups of disadvantaged youth who volunteered at GrassRoots as part of the Looking Glass Program. She further supported the youth by

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documenting their efforts with photos which she presented to each upon their completion. She shared her knowledge of working with challenged youth with the garden coordinator, increasing her skills and knowledge base.

In 2015, Lynn orchestrated the creation of the Adaptive and Educational Garden Area, a demonstration of adaptive and container gardening with detailed educational displays. She also had the Adaptive Garden designated as certified pollinator habitat. The Adaptive Garden wraps around St. Thomas Episcopal Church, and is a beautiful thank you to the church congregation for their support of GrassRoots Garden. Lynn encouraged many skilled professionals to volunteer their skills to the Garden; she was also active on the Master Gardener GrassRoots Garden Committee; and she created the financial and in-kind donor walls at the Garden.

Lynn was a remarkable garden volunteer for many reasons, including: her willingness to share her knowledge and skills in working with people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities; her ability to see a need of the program, and to devote herself to finding the resources, people and time to meet that need, with very little direction; and her clear, logistical thinking which she used to problem solve seemingly insurmountable challenges. Lynn increased the capacity of Grassroots Garden by connecting and strengthening ties with collaborating partners, donors, and professional volunteers; and by being a strong advocate for the program throughout the community.

Lynn was an incredible force at GrassRoots Garden, inspiring so many in our community by the beauty she created, her passion and commitment to the mission and vision of the Garden and FOOD for Lane County, and her compassion to everyone who sought out Grassroots to find community and a place to contribute. No other participant at GrassRoots did more to build community, develop programs, teach compassion and inclusion, and nurture, support and champion those who were the underdogs of the Garden and the community.

Lynn set a high bar for others to aspire to. Her impact has had deep and profound ripples in the

lives of all who were fortunate enough to have been with her and touched by her.

Fall hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9 to 4. GrassRoots Garden is located at 1465 Coburg Road across from Safeway, behind St. Thomas Episcopal Church. For more information, contact Merry Bradley at merrybradley@foodforlanecounty.org or 458-221-0652.

Celebrations

October Birthdays

15 Sandra Bristow



If you wish to be added to or deleted from the parish recognition of birthdays and anniversaries, please contact the Beacon editor at LAJotKDK@aol.com.

Reflections



The following is a *reflection* from Deacon Mike Watkins.

Awe and Wonder

Bishop Michael Curry was in the diocese this month. The clergy from the diocese were invited to gather, either in-person or on-line, to hear him speak. The message he presented echoed much of his long-standing theme: Love for others will sustain and build the body of Christ.

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In addition, he recognized the state of our political and social turmoil. He was adamant that we in the country had experienced these periods before and we had endured and became even stronger.

The meeting broke up, people were outside and I turned and the Presiding Bishop was standing there with his entourage. A memory flash and a moment in time came flooding back.

Several years ago my wife and I were at the annual convention of the Diocese of Oklahoma. In the hotel, we got on an elevator and standing there was Michael Curry. Both of us stood in awe. I think my mouth hung open. We probably managed a weak “Good Morning.”

Soon after this flash into history I related the event to a retired bishop. And, he told me about meeting Prince Philip while attending a Lambeth Council. The Bishop’s reenactment of his own wide-open eyes and gaping mouth caused us both to laugh.

For me, the question now arises, “Would I stand open-mouthed if I met Jesus on the street?” Would I greet Him as an old friend and speak to Him of my personal secrets? I hope you have asked yourselves a similar question before.

The question is relevant because there are instances when I’ve known people who have some amount of power or at least some minor name recognition. After a time, the awe and wonder is not really there anymore. The “other” has become just “another.” It’s not that my respect, my friendship, or my acknowledgment has waned. But the other person had become like me.

I don’t want that to happen in my knowing Jesus the Christ. Yes, I want to speak freely, I want to listen intently to Him. But I don’t want to lose that sense of wonder and awe. And yet, I want to power-through those mouth-gaping moments, find my inner voice and be with a true friend.

My reflection on this question will continue. My thoughts will wander but will return to my original question; and Jesus will still be on my mind.

Parish Recycling Efforts



Parishioners are encouraged to collect their redeemable cans and bottles as part of our recycling efforts and our commitment to support St. John’s in their shelter program for the unhoused. In consideration of our available storage space, collections should be from St. Thomas parish households only. Collected cans and bottles can be brought to church during business hours or on Sunday morning for deposit in the storage closet next to the office back door located in the breezeway. Additional information will be posted within the next two weeks.

Schedule for October

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/>.

**Saturday October 1 – Blessing of the
Animals – 10:00 am**



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