



# *The Beacon*

## *St. Thomas Episcopal Church*

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

November 2022

Volume 23 Issue 11

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- Diana Garcia
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### ***From the Rector's Desk***

One Sunday last month as part of my homily, I asked the congregation to write down answers to two questions: 1) How have you been generous to another person recently? 2) How has God been generous to you recently? The slips of paper were put into the offering plates and were blessed at the altar.

Here are some of your responses:

#### *1) How I was generous to another person:*

- I talked with a man sitting next to Safeway and gave him my recycle bottles.
- Hired an unemployed worker for help in minor construction.
- Gave donations to three hospitals and school programs.
- A sister of a longtime friend called three days ago to ask if she could come over to our house and stay for a couple of nights. Sensing her need for someone to talk to, I said, "Come and stay as long as you want!"
- Hosting a neighborhood birthday breakfast for a neighbor turning 95!
- Time spent with a scholarship candidate to assist with her application.
- Donations to Outreach and St. Thomas Endowment Fund.
- Kept my patience while teaching somewhat "challenging" children.
- Trying to see the other person as humans just like me!

#### *2) How I experienced God's generosity:*

- God is keeping me and my family financially secure through a difficult time. We want for nothing.
- My neighbor brought me an impromptu coffee from the bistro.
- My granddaughter offered her concern for me in a lovely email.
- Blue skies and green trees and birds at the feeders and squirrels at the table for peanuts.
- Safe travels on a recent trip.
- After a sleepless night doing volunteer work with a group of lovely people and hearing their stories—realizing that actually I'm truly blessed in my life.
- Thankful for our home and solar panels.
- Therapy. Peace of mind through unexpected adversity.

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- God has gifted us with a glorious time with our children, who are very generous with their time.
- Being physically able to keep running at age 77.

Several people wrote what I view as summary or concluding statements:

"I feel God is generous to me 24/7 and I thank him many times a day because he is *always* with me."  
"My blessings are so many I cannot list them all."  
"Gratitude is THE attitude!"

Peace and many blessings,

*Ann* +

## Endowment News

### New Year's Eve – Coming Soon!

In about 8 short weeks we'll be putting on our New Year's Eve party hats. Then it will be just a few hours until we can't do anything about our 2022 taxes but pay them.

So, now's a good time to begin our tax planning. That may include selecting our year end charitable donations. Among these I hope you'll consider The St. Thomas Endowment Fund.

Your past donations to our Endowment Fund produced exciting results in 2022 as they blessed us with our Young Musicians Program. Thanks to our Fund, this program graced our spring worship services with performances by five choral and instrumental musicians.

Remember Margaret Boggs' delightful viola solos? Or Katie Anderson's wonderful voice? They and three other musicians came to St. Thomas thanks to your Endowment donations.

The Young Musicians Program was just the beginning. With your continued generosity our Endowment Fund can do so much more. So, as you consider year end donations, please keep in mind

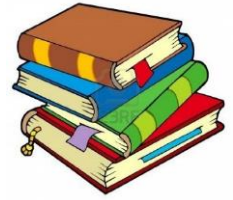
our Endowment Fund. With your help we can do so much more!

Duncan Murray, Chair

P.S. Remember – Your Endowment Fund donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law

## St. Thomas Book Group

The last Ladies Book Group gathering of the year will take place in the parish library on November 17 at 1:30 pm.



As has become the practice of these lively book discussions and socializing, the meeting will be hybrid for those participating from home. The November selection is *A Gathering of Finches* by Jane Kirkpatrick. Book group members are also considering suggestions for their reading selections for 2023. All interested readers are welcome to drop in when the Ladies Book Group gathers.

## In Memoriam

On October 15 Rev. Ann was notified of the passing of long-time St. Thomas parishioner Gloria Duce. Gloria and her husband Barney were founding



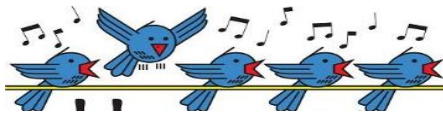
members of this parish. In recent years Gloria resided in a care facility. She now joins her life partner Barney in our Lord's heavenly kingdom. Rest eternal good and faithful servant.



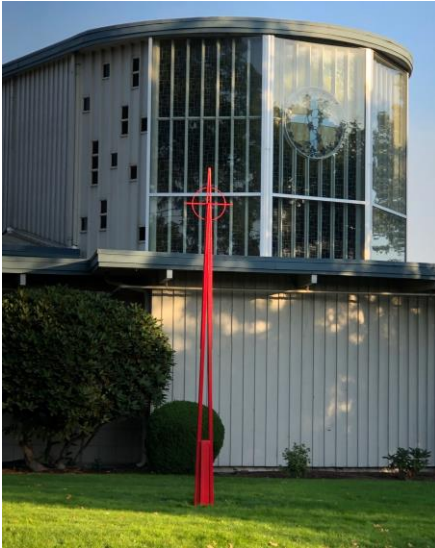
### In-Gathering of Pledges Sunday, November 6

Don't forget! Our annual In-Gathering of Pledges will take place on Sunday, November 6. Please bring your completed pledge/estimated giving forms to church that day or mail them to the church so that they can be blessed at the altar. If you did not receive or have lost your form, please let the parish office know.

## Grace Notes



What better way to recognize *grace* at St. Thomas than to celebrate the completion of the cross relocation project. The St. Thomas “Holy Spirit red” cross has been beautifully restored and relocated to a prominent place on the front lawn.



It has been a long process, but finally well accomplished by McKenzie Construction with the thoughtful direction of a determined team of St. Thomas parishioners.



Our sincere thanks must go to Rev. Ann and Senior Warden Len Calvert for their gracious guidance, John Spruance for his engineering expertise, our incredible grounds crew of Larry Wilson and Joe Konieczka, the financial wizardry of Anne Vanderveer who determined how to pay for the project, Ed Johnson for his committee leadership, and to the committee members including Rev. Frank Moss, Linda Whitehead, and Cindy Jensen. St. Thomas parishioners, users and the Coburg Road community will enjoy our signature cross – a beacon of faith – for years to come.

## Outreach

The book party fundraiser featuring the launch of Tricia Crisafulli’s new book was a great success. Many thanks to Tricia for her inspiration and generosity. To date, the

income from the event totals \$1225 – funds that will benefit Outreach.



Tricia speaking to an enthusiastic gathering about her latest book, The Secrets of Ohnita Harbor



To enhance the event a musician entertained.



Now that the Head Start teachers have confirmed their class rosters, a master shopping list for sweatsuits by gender and size is being compiled by Sue Colvin. For simplification of reimbursement and record keeping, members of the committee will do the shopping. Two thousand dollars has been

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earmarked in the Outreach fund for this project. Gift bags and a small toy for each child will also be purchased.

The date to work with One Hope volunteers to pack Thanksgiving boxes will be announced soon. Parishioners are encouraged to join the work party. In addition to volunteering our time for this project, the Outreach committee has authorized a financial contribution to help underwrite food box expenses.

Outreach has approved these additional one-time expenditures:

- \$500 to St. John the Divine in support of their shelter program
- \$500 to Church of the Resurrection in support of their shelter program
- \$500 to Bags of Love
- \$500 to Episcopal Relief and Development for Hurricane Ian relief
- \$500 to the Eugene Police Department's Community Care program

Funding for Outreach is included in the annual budget and our pledges make this possible. Outreach was included in the budget in 2022 for the first time.

The Outreach committee also agreed to lend support to St. John the Divine's H.U.G.S. at Christmas program. Parishioners will be asked to donate Hats, (new) Underwear, Gloves and Scarves and Socks for this worthy project in the weeks leading up to Advent. The items will be distributed at St. John's Saturday Pantries during the month of December. Appeals for donations will be made during the service on November 6.

## ***Blessing of the Animals***

On October 1 in recognition of the celebration of creation and the Feast of St. Francis, Rev. Ann led a special service for our cherished pets and "stuffies." Several parishioners brought their furry family members to the service to receive a special blessing.

John and Holly Spruance with their corgies.



Dale Bixler with Mandy and Eli and Lucy Fisher with their stuffies, assisted by Grandpa Joe



Not to be overlooked is Jet, who seems to be more interested in licking Rev. Ann's feet.



## LEARN TO SPEAK SPANISH IN THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF CUERNAVACA! July 29 – August 12, 2023

Have you thought about learning to speak Spanish but couldn't decide how to get started? Has your previous knowledge of Spanish grown rusty with disuse? Are you a priest who would like to be able to celebrate in Spanish or a deacon who longs to proclaim the Gospel in Spanish with greater confidence. This is your chance!

Since 2015 the Anglican Diocese of Cuernavaca has offered a two-week Spanish language immersion program for groups from various diocese in the Episcopal Church, including the Diocese of Oregon. The program for our diocese in 2023 will be held from July 29 to August 12, as always at their diocesan center in Cuernavaca, Mexico. This program is open to students of all levels - from those with very little or no Spanish to more advanced students wanting to zero in on the subjunctive or reflexive verbs.



The course is open to up to 16 people who will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. The group will stay at the Anglican Center in Cuernavaca, which has been described as "a modest and friendly place."



In addition to language classes Monday through Friday, there will be visits to a variety of religious and cultural sites in and around Cuernavaca during the week, and to more distant destinations on weekends. The day includes Morning Prayer before breakfast, and Compline after the evening meal, said in Spanish and led by members of the group, thus providing additional opportunities for reading, praying, and singing in Spanish. Our group will also have an opportunity to meet the clergy of the Diocese of Cuernavaca and to worship in local Anglican churches.

The cost for the course is \$2,200.00 per person which includes registration, tuition, the language program, all ground transportation, shared lodging and most meals for the two weeks. It does not include airfare to and from Mexico City, entrance fees to museums, meals outside of the Anglican Center, tips, trip or health insurance or personal purchases. A deposit of \$1,100 is due upon registration and the final payment is due by May 1, 2023.

For more information or to register, please contact Sharon L. Rodgers at [slrodgers@comcast.net](mailto:slrodgers@comcast.net) or 541-515-3925.



## GrassRoots Garden



### Carrot Harvest Day 2022

**Join in the Family Fun!** GrassRoots Garden will again stage its annual **Carrot Harvest Day on Saturday, December 10.** Arrive at 10:30 AM to select your spot for harvesting the biggest carrots. We pull at 11:00 AM sharp. We'll enjoy carrot ginger soup, carrot cake, hot crusty Metropol bread and hot chocolate while the carrots are judged. Prizes will be awarded for the heaviest, longest and most unique carrots.

We hope this year's celebration brings out past and present friends of GrassRoots to the Garden. We'll acknowledge the challenges and celebrate the successes of the 2022 growing season and make plans for the New Year ahead. We hope to see you there!

**"Give a Gift that Grows!"** Our Adopt-a-Plot Program at FOOD for Lane County GrassRoots Garden can fill many of your holiday needs. This worthy GrassRoots fundraiser allows you to select and sponsor a 40-foot vegetable bed from over 100 producing beds while honoring a friend, relative or associate with a gift that grows throughout the 2023 gardening year. You may want to visit the Garden and choose a bed from sections with names such as Ladybird Beetle, Dragonfly, or Damselfly or other beneficial insects.

Apple, Pear, Asian Pear, Cherry and Plum trees also make a great gift, heralding the seasons with blossoms in the Spring and lovely fruit in the Fall. Choose a specific tree from over 100 trees in the orchards, and if you wish create your own garden tag or marker to give with your gift. Each bed, tree, or compost bin can be sponsored for a one-year fee of \$50. The kiwi arbor, berry patches, greenhouses and other structures and gardens are also available for adoption in 2023 from \$250 to \$1000 each.

Donors of \$50 or more include name placement on our Donor Recognition Wall. We can send you an Adopt-a-Plot brochure and donation form via email: Please contact Jen Anonia at [jen@foodforlanecounty.org](mailto:jen@foodforlanecounty.org).

**New Winter Hours:** T, Th, Sat, 9am-4pm. GrassRoots Garden is located at 1465 Coburg Rd., across from Safeway, behind St. Thomas Episcopal Church. For more information, contact Merry Bradley: 458-221- 0652 [merrybradley@yahoo.com](mailto:merrybradley@yahoo.com).

## Reflections



Why a picture of a woodland trail bedecked in fall foliage? It is cross country season. While witnessing a recent cross country middle school competition to cheer on our granddaughter, I was overwhelmed with emotion on many levels. Our oldest daughter and son were avid runners and competed in cross country, and as parents we attended countless events to provide encouragement. Watching our granddaughter brought back a flood of memories and a realization that another generation is carrying on the running tradition.

But cross country is unique in that while winning or placing may be impressive, it is the team effort that is most significant. Members of a team work together to position themselves among the runners, to encourage each other and to pace their efforts. As a former coach I have always believed that sports training fosters life skills, but cross country is unique in the way it encourages "faith skills." To be a truly effective cross country team member one must have faith in one's running abilities, as well as

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faith in the running abilities of fellow team members. Each member of the team inspires faith by encouraging one another, and the most successful teams have a team leader who inspires by exemplifying best practices. When running as a team the participants strategize for placement in competition. Strategy requires respect, not just for the capabilities of one's team mates, but an appreciation and understanding of the skills and capabilities of the team's competitors. It is one thing to be *fleet of foot*, but another thing entirely to think strategically on one's feet, to pace oneself, to know the course, and then to put one foot in front of the other, to finish.

Finishing! Perhaps that is the most heartening thing about cross country. The event I recently attended was exemplary of so many cross country meets I have attended where spectators stand at the finish line at the end of the meet to cheer on those last members of the competing teams to cross the finish line. These team members are not stragglers but *finishers*, and it is their faith in themselves and the faith of their team members that gets them to the finish line.

In life we are presented with a course to navigate, a path to walk or run, and doing so with *faith* and in the company of a *faith community* enables us to live more fully, inspired by our *team leader*, Jesus Christ. With Christ there is no *finish line*, but rather an eternal home in His father's heavenly kingdom.



### November Birthdays

1	Nancy Thompson
11	Diane Landon
13	Saundra Murray
21	Cindy Jensen
27	Keri Davis

### November Anniversaries

19	Len and Janet Calvert
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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](mailto:LAJotKDK@aol.com).

### Schedule for November

#### 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/>.

Thursday, November 24 - *Thanksgiving*



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