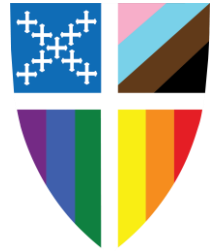




The Beacon

St. Thomas Episcopal Church



Give thanks and praise to God and share God's love.

June 2025

Volume 26 Issue 5

In this Issue:

- From the Rector's Desk
- Endowment News
- Book Group
- Outreach
- Departing Parishioners
- Pride Festival
- Grace Notes
- St. Thomas Choir
- Young Musicians
- Welcoming Community
- GrassRoots Garden
- Creation Care
- Reflections

Vestry:

- Cindy Jensen,
Sr. Warden
- Joe Tulacz, Jr. Warden
- Lucy Barnett
- Susan Christiansen
- Chris King
- Nancy Osborne
- Mark Pezzoni
- Mike Richardson
- Holly Spruance

Rector – Rev. Ann Gaillard

Deacon – Mike Watkins

Parish Administrator –
JB Hoover

Parish Treasurer –
Anne VanDerveer

1465 Coburg Road
Eugene, Oregon 97401

Phone: 541-343-5241

Email:

stthomaschurcheugene@gmail.com

Beacon Editor –
Cindy Jensen

Website –
<https://st-thomaseugene.net/>



From the Rector's Desk

These poems were favorites of Lee Gaillard. Rev. Ann has shared them here to honor the beautiful spirit Lee possessed. As an English teacher and head of high school English departments, Lee was an inspiring educator who challenged his students while gifting them with an appreciation of thoughtful literature.



“The Peace of Wild Things”

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

--Wendell Berry

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

"I thank You God"

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

Peace and many blessings,

Ann +

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we mourn the passing of our dear and devoted parishioner Lee Gaillard. As the husband of Rev. Ann, Lee arrived at St. Thomas eight years ago when we called our wonderful rector, and his presence among us proved to be a bonus. Lee was a faithful and engaged parishioner and an ardent supporter of Ann's ministry. He added his grace and wisdom to the Lenten study groups, As a regular Lector, Lee engaged us with his marvelous delivery in his resonant voice. Lee served the Endowment Board with his keen intellect infused with grace. His poetry suggestions for the *Beacon* were always a welcome delight.

While Lee's cancer diagnosis was profound and his decline swift, as a community of faith we trust, as Lee so greatly trusted, that our loving God will enfold him in an everlasting embrace and give him peace. To Lee we say, "Rest well good and faithful servant."



Another loss to note is the passing of John Landon, the husband of very active parishioner Diane Landon. John died peacefully after a short illness. John and Diane had been married for 65 years. We hold these dear parishioners and their families in our hearts and prayers.

St. Thomas Choir



As is the practice at St. Thomas, our choir will be taking the summer off for a well-deserved rest. Their last Sunday is June 1, so be sure to be present in church to show your appreciation for all the choir does to enhance our services. The choir is led by our enthusiastic and creative musical director Keri Davis, and Chris King enriches every service with his organ accompaniment. This year we have seen the choir grow in participants, a wonderful expansion of their joyful and grace inspired vocals. With the benefit of Keri's musical connections in the greater community and with the Endowment funding, the Young Musicians program has further enhanced the music that graces our services.

Welcoming Service

The service on Sunday, June 29 will be a special service during which we will welcome the members of St. John the Divine and St. Matthew's Episcopal Churches. This shared service is part of the effort of the five area Episcopal churches to become better acquainted with their rectors and church lay leaders. For the past few months representatives of the lay ministries of each church along with the rectors have been meeting to share parish concerns and attributes. Three of the area churches are in a

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

state of flux. St. John's has a small congregation and part time rector but hosts some important community ministries. St. Matthew's has been without a rector for several months and is involved in a search for a part-time rector; St. Thomas is thriving with our Companions in Ministry and busy schedule of users, but we too will be involved in a search for a rector.

The joint service is a wonderful opportunity to show our St. Thomas welcoming spirit. Following the service, the coffee hour will be especially lively. Chris Craun, Diocesan Canon to the Ordinary, will provide some commentary and visit with all in attendance. Please make special note of this service on your calendars and plan to attend.

St. Thomas Ladies Book Group



The St. Thomas Ladies Book Group has some great summer reads lined up. The June selection is by popular local author Bob Welch. On Thursday, June 26 Book Group members will gather in the Parish Library at 1:30 pm to discuss American Nightingale. This promises to be a thoughtful and heartfelt discussion of Frances Slinger the World War II nurse who was the heroine of the Normandy invasion.

Endowment Fund

The relatively new St. Thomas Endowment Board Chair, Paul Barnett, is diligently familiarizing himself with all the nuances related to oversight of the Endowment Fund.

In addition, Paul has been meeting with each board member to gain insight into their respective the future there

The annual Pride Festival will take place at the Lane Events Center in the Convention Center on Saturday, June 28. St. Thomas



will be a need to appoint new members to the Endowment Board. If you have a special interest in this regard, speak to Paul about Endowment board service.

Creation Care

For the past two years the Creation Care team has encouraged the collection of old electronics for recycling. Team members Gary and Cindy Jensen



have loaded their pickup with contributions from parishioners and taken those items to Next Step for their efficient and environmentally safe recycling or repurposing. It is amazing that two years in a row we have been able to fill a pickup bed with our cast off electronics. It is time to do this again. Used and outdated electronics – televisions, computers, printers, phones, small appliances, etc. – can be brought to the church towards the end of June and on a date to be announced the Jensens will load their pickup and make the run to Next Step. Thank you for contributing to our *creation care* efforts.

Outreach

For the month of June the Outreach committee is focused on providing assistance to the Home Starter Kits program. For those



individuals recovering from homelessness and securing basic housing, the home starter kits provide them with basic household essentials. The committee is calling for the donation of queen size or twin size blankets. Contributions can be placed in the collection box under the narthex table. To simplify your support of this effort, Tricia Crisafulli will welcome cash donations which she will apply to online purchases through Wayfare. Any way one is able to support this parish outreach effort is appreciated.

Pri



will join with other representatives of the Interfaith Community to host the hospitality booth. Chris King will be there all day representing St. Thomas. Any parish members who are able to give an hour or two of their time to assist Chris would be most welcome. Please alert Chris of your intention to assist and the time you can serve. There is a \$5.00 parking fee as the Event Center grounds are fenced for security purposes.

The booth will need donations of water bottles, cookies and peanut butter sandwiches. Handing out water bottles and snacks allows for positive engagement with festival visitors. As Episcopal Christians we promise in our baptismal covenant to respect the dignity of every human being. These days the folks in the LGBTQ+ community need all the support we can give them.

Grace Notes



Smaller in numbers but greater in spirit – that is the assessment of one who has witnessed the transformation of our faith community for five decades. There is no doubt that the spirit of St. Thomas is grace inspired and grace is witnessed in countless ways: the acts of loving attention to our grounds and facilities; regular commitment to the business of our committees that serve to manage our church facilities and functions; assuming roles in our worship services; connecting with our Companions in Ministry and facility users; extending our sincere and welcoming spirit with visitors and facility users. What is most notable and heartwarming are the loving and intimate caring acts of attention that are at the very core of the spirit that is so alive in our faith community.

In the natural world elephants are a wonderful reminder of this innate sense of community caring. Some may have seen the online post of the elephants at the San Diego Zoo surrounding their young as an instinctive act of protection during the recent southern California earthquake. Elephants work together to rescue threatened or injured

members of their herd. The behavior of elephants provides us with a beautiful example in nature of how to live with loving intention.



Parishioner and Vestry member, Susan Christiansen experienced elephants up close and personal on her recent trip to Africa.

In recent months we have witnessed acts of caring concern as we have prayed for and attended to those among us dealing with sorrow, illness, pain and loss. Comforting those among us in need of faith-filled support is the grace of God working through us. It is the grace that binds us together as a faith community. And it is this grace that will continue to unify us and empower us to grow the spirit of St. Thomas Episcopal Church.

Departing Parishioners

On Sunday, May 18 the parish said goodbye to faithful members of our faith community, Adele Rennie and Bernie McCafferty. They are moving to Ireland, Bernie's homeland. Junior Warden Joe Tulacz presented them with icons as a remembrance of their time at St. Thomas and our appreciation of their presence in our faith community. We will remember Adele and Bernie with fondness as they enjoy life on the *Emerald Isle*.



GrassRoots Garden

The Super Sifter Story

Whack, whack, whack, whack!

One might ask, what is the origin of such a strange sound coming from various sites in the Garden the last three weeks?

Well, to make a long story short: the contraption in the photo is the result of design and construction by Gary Jordan and has been given the title: “Cave Tech Compost Super Sifter.”

Its function is simple but effective requiring three persons the basic operation looks like this: a large wheelbarrow is placed in the cavity of the beast; several scoops of seasoned compost are dumped in the box with a 1/4-inch screen for a bottom and wheels under the box. So, here is the human participation: the driver moves the box back-and-forth whacking the box against the striker-plate at both ends. This creates a vibration that begins to separate the various particles that will penetrate the 1/4-inch screen or not.

This function is assisted by the hands of the two persons on either side, rubbing their hands back-and-forth and pressing down to complete the separation process. This takes about a few seconds; the screen is quickly cleaned and ready for another cycle. The wheelbarrow rapidly fills with the smooth powdery gourmet treat just the way soil microbes like it. That is about as brief as I can make it. So, anyone who would like to experience this process for the making of food for the gods of soil, we welcome your participation. Happy Shifting!



Gary Jordan is a longtime GrassRoots Garden participant who came to the Garden in 2014 as a Master Gardener, Compost Specialist. Since then, he has taught composting both at the free City/Master Gardener compost demonstrations, in small groups and one on one to other GrassRoots participants, he's helped maintain the compost site turning piles and sifting the finished outcome. For many years, he's been repairing and rebuilding our large fleet of wheelbarrows and has become our head fix-it person and builder of many picnic tables and benches, planting boxes, two person sifters and the designer, builder and chief operator of the remarkable and extremely effective Super Sifter. For all he gives to the Garden, we can't thank him enough!

New Spring Hours: T, W, 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@foodforlanecounty.org.

Reflections



Wildflowers are truly a marvel! These delicate blooms in all their various shapes and colors are the epitome of resilience – nature's way of showing us mere mortals of how to prevail. Despite tempests, draught, wildfire, erosion, overgrazing, and exposure to toxins they return. Sometimes the return is slow and steady, and sometimes in great profusion, but with their innate resilience the wildflowers return. Wildflowers even survive the ravages of war. As Britain recovered from the blitz of World War II, climbing through the bombed out ruins was the Wandering Willy, a graceful viney plant with blooms in various colors.

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

In the Willamette Valley it is a nature observer's delight to watch the colorful progression. Wild iris brighten the forest floor with purple accents; Camus cover the fields in blue profusion; spring beauty sprinkle the hay fields with their pink blossoms; and wild roses grace the highway shoulders in vivid hues of pink. Take a deeper dive into the woods and the determined hiker will see fairy slipper orchids, trillium, grass pinks and Solomon Seal. And as summer progresses fire weed, blue lupin, and oxeye daisies will grace the hillsides. What a vibrant gift provided by the creator and a reminder that with resilience we too can prevail.

Young Musicians Program



The Young Musicians presenter on Sunday, May 18 was Alexis Wood who is currently a junior at South Eugene High School. Alexis started performing in children's theater while in elementary school and has continued her performing arts journey to present day. Over the years Alexis has been in a total of 20 performances. Her most recent roles include Serena in Legally Blonde, Agnes in Agnes of God and Sophie in Mamma Mia, all with South Eugene Theater. Alexis has been training in voice and dance for five years. Her dance experience includes a variety of genres: Modern, Contemporary, Jazz, Hip Hop, and Tap. She is currently studying music theory & piano while also singing with the Synergy A Cappella Group associated with the Oregon Children's Choir. Alexis will be appearing in three

of The Shedd's 2025 theatrics: A Connecticut Yankee, Pal Joey and Oklahoma, in which she will be portraying the role of Laurey. After high school, Alexis plans to attend a four-year college to get her BFA in musical theater.

June Birthdays

- 6 Shirley Collard
- 7 Lori Fisher
- 7 Margaret Heltman
- 8 Beverly Jackson
- 19 Anne VanDerveer

June Anniversaries

- 6 Duncan and Sandra Murray



June Dates of Note

June 1 – Choir Celebration

June 8 - Baptisms



June 12 – Flag Day



June 16 – Father's Day

June 19 – Juneteenth

June __ – Electronics Recycling

June 28 – Eugene Pride Celebration Lane Events Center



June 29 – Combined Service with St. John's and St. Matthew's