



# *The Beacon*

## *St. Thomas Episcopal Church*



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

November 2024

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- Lucy Barnett
- Chris King
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### ***From the Rector's Desk***

I'm not telling you anything you don't know already when I say that this is an extremely anxious time in the life of our country. This Presidential election is the most pivotal and fraught of any other election in my lifetime. So many of us are waking up in the middle of the night anxiously wondering: Who will be elected? Will the results be contested? Will there be violence during and/or after the election? As divided as it is, will our nation hold together? Depending upon who is elected, what will that mean for me and my family? For the nation? For the world?

I have found that only prayer, scripture, and faith in our loving God in Christ help me with my anxiety. In the morning when I first awaken, in the evening when I go to bed, and in the middle of the night when I wake up and can't get back to sleep, I pray these three prayers, each of them only three words long:

--Lord, have mercy.

--Thee I adore.

--Into Thy hands.

I find these little prayers calming, and more importantly, reassuring me that I can always trust in a loving God no matter what happens. For no matter how much evil there is in the world, God is always good.

In addition to those prayers, I rely on a verse from the gospel of John that has always sustained me in times of trouble: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (*John 1:5*)

On election day, the church will be open from eight a.m. to four p.m. for prayer, quiet, and meditation. There will also be hand-outs with suggested prayers in the pews if you want to use them, as well as votive candles if you wish to light them while praying.

Never underestimate the power of prayer.

Peace and many blessings,

*Ann* +

## I'm Thankful For...

The Endowment Fund Board of Directors! These are the six members of St. Thomas who have guided your Endowment Fund, some for several years.



Not only have they provided advice and counsel. They've also supported your Fund financially. Here they are, in no particular order.

**Senior Warden Cindy Jensen** – She'll always do what's needed. And she'll do it like nobody else can.

**Beverly Jackson, Clerk** – She takes meticulous minutes. And she's always ready for a good laugh.

**John Spruance** – He's always ready with a good response to a key question: "What do you think about that?"

**Lee Gaillard** – I can always count on him to think things through thoroughly.

**Diane Landon** - She comes up with good questions that are always clear and on target.

**Rev. Ann Gaillard**- I can always count on her support, advice and cooperation.

Please join me in thanking these six wonderful people. They're in charge of your Endowment Fund and responsible for its success.

Duncan Murray, Chair



Endowment Board Chair Duncan Murray awarding Beverly Jackson her certificate as a member of the Legacy Society



Members of the St. Thomas Endowment Board and Legacy Society gather for lunch in mid-October

## Outreach

As reported in the October 2024 Beacon, parish contributions exceeded \$1400 to contribute to a One Hope cottage to benefit the transitional housing project.



Since that initial fundraising effort, Outreach has received an anonymous donation of \$1500 to go towards a St. Thomas sponsored cottage and another \$6000 from the same donor to be used for local philanthropic efforts chosen by the St. Thomas outreach committee. At their October meeting the Outreach committee determined their allocations for the remainder of the year. The committee voted to fully fund a One Hope cottage utilizing the funds collected from generous parishioners and the balance of the full \$6000 cottage cost to be drawn from the funds provided by the anonymous donor.

With the infusion of donation dollars combined with the balance of Outreach funds remaining in the 2024 St. Thomas budget, the following allocations were determined by the committee:

- \$500 Looking Glass (for teen programs)
- \$500 St. John the Divine (in support of their homeless ministries)
- \$500 Church of the Resurrection (in support of the Home Starter Kits program)
- \$500 St. Thomas Rector's Discretionary Fund
- \$500 Food for Lane County
- \$500 St. Vincent de Paul (for McDonald Community Vision Fund)

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Funds were also unanimously approved for the following national and international projects:

\$500 Episcopal Relief and Development  
(for Hurricane Helene relief)

\$100 Heifer International

The committee also decided that contributions of blankets for Home Starters would not be requested of parishioners after the significant contributions made to the One Hope cottage. Outreach decided to use \$100 from the remaining funds in their budget to purchase blankets for Home Starters.

The committee also discussed ways in which parishioners can be involved in hands-on support activities. Preparing casseroles to be served at Egan Warming Centers and preparing food to be served at Everyone Village are just two hands-on activities being considered for future parish involvement.

Looking ahead, the packing of Thanksgiving food boxes for One Hope will take place at the Moshofsky Center at the U of O athletic complex on November 21 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Rumor has it that the Oregon Ducks football team will be involved in this effort. In addition, committee members are completing the purchase of sweat suits for the annual Christmas gift bags for the children enrolled in Head Start on our St. Thomas campus.

## Grace Notes



Those of us with pets, whether feline, canine, rodent, reptile or feathered, appreciate the opportunity to have our loyal companions experience the annual *blessing of the animals*. These companionable creatures are a source of grace in our lives, so blessing them is only natural and necessary. While it is not always possible to transport our beloved pets to church to partake of the annual blessing, we know in our hearts they are always blessed. The faithful friends who were present for the October 5 Blessing of the Animals were accompanied by their attentive human companions, and all received a joyful reception and prayer for God's grace from Rev. Ann.



Judy Wilson with Jet



Sue & Paul  
Colvin with  
Luc



Paul Barnett  
with Ruby

## GrassRoots Garden



It's the height of pepper season at GrassRoots which brings with it our annual hot sauce workshop, led by Jamie Levitan. As a longtime participant of the Garden, Jamie has put in hundreds, if not thousands, of hours at the Garden. Somewhere along the way Jamie started taking peppers from the Garden and turning them into a lovely product that quickly became a staple at every lunch served to our participants. Many showed interest in learning the skill of hot sauce making, so Jamie obliged. Thus started the hot sauce workshop, which is a yearly hit and well attended.

This year's workshop included a special treat! In her home garden, Jamie grew 94 different types of peppers. These peppers ranged from very mild bell peppers, all the way up to 525,000 Scoville unit peppers that require time and several glasses of milk to recover from! On the day of the workshop her 94 pepper varieties were laid out for all 25 in attendance to see and try (if they dared to take on the heat, that is). Several varieties were chosen by Jamie to be a part of this workshop's batch of hot sauce that she would then demonstrate for the attendees.



Starting with a serious talk about home canning and the safety steps needed to keep the processing safe, Jamie then asked participants to wash and cut the peppers. She then laid the correctly weighed peppers and a measured amount of garlic onto a stainless-steel tray to roast in the oven. After they had roasted to the correct stage, she added the peppers, garlic, salt, and vinegar to a Vitamix blender to puree the mixture. During the time it took to completely puree the hot sauce, attendees were encouraged to browse the peppers and take home whatever they wanted so they could make their own hot sauce at home, following Jamie's specific recipe. Once the puree was done, it was added to a large pot and brought to a boil, then lowered to a simmer for 5 minutes before adding to the sanitized hot jars to water bath can. Attendees were able to see the process from start to finish, all while being able to ask questions and get hands-on experience with the hot sauce Queen Herself.



All attendees left with a bag full of peppers of their choice, a new knowledge of home canning, and a new way to utilize some of the produce they encounter at GrassRoots and in their own gardens at home.

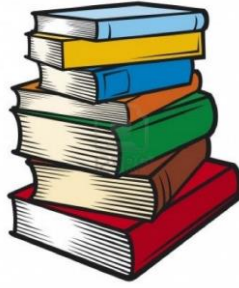
Happy hot sauce season and happy canning!

**Fall Hours:** Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 9am – 4:00pm. 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](mailto:merrybradley@foodforlanecounty.org).



## St. Thomas Book Group

The members of the St. Thomas Ladies Book Group are no doubt engrossed in a powerful read this month as the selection to conclude their 2024 reading list is The Women by Kristin Hannah.



One does not need to be a *woman* to read this emotionally charged and thought-provoking account of a combat nurse during the Vietnam War and her return home to an unwelcoming country. It will surely be an engaging and insightful conversation when book group members gather on Thursday, November 21 at 1:30 pm in the parish library to discuss and share their reflections of a turbulent time in American history.

## Young Musicians Program



It has become a much-appreciated musical experience for St. Thomas parishioners to enjoy the wonderful young musicians selected by music director, Keri Davis, for performance opportunities at St. Thomas. For the Sunday, October 27 service, Jaden Jagels truly made a joyful noise in songs of praise during the prelude and mid-service anthem. All present enthusiastically applauded his passionate and heartfelt songs proclaiming his spiritual devotion.

Jaden's musical experiences extend back to elementary school, and he has qualified for All State Choirs since fifth grade. Now a senior at Thurston High School, he continues his involvement with musical performance participating in the Harburg Revues at the Shedd where he has expanded his interest in musical theater. As a result, he was cast in the 2023 Shedd production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. Jaden is especially grateful to have been selected for a Young Musicians Scholarship.

## In-gathering at St. Thomas



At the Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> service, our St. Thomas family of faith will gather to present their pledges for the 2025 year. We have been blessed by the leadership of stewardship chairmen Tricia Crisafulli and Joe Tulacz, the loving encouragement of Rev. Ann, and the testimonials shared by Maggie Meneghin, Paul and Lucy Barnett and Cindy Jensen. Each of us has thoughtfully considered our pledge to continue the mission of our St. Thomas *home*, a mission of *generously loving, generously giving, generously living*.

If you are unable to be at this celebratory service, please use the addressed envelope included with your pledge form and mail it to the church office. Pledges will be joyfully received and blessed at the in-gathering service as we give thanks and praise to God.



## *Apostle's Shield*

### **St. Matthew the Publican**



Publicans were tax collectors. They were greatly hated by the Jews because they collected the taxes for the Romans, and more often than not charged too much. Matthew was one of these publicans who collected the money for Herod at Capernaum. It was his job to tax the people and goods crossing the Sea of Galilee or passing along the great Damascus Road which ran by the shore.

Jesus first saw Matthew sitting at his place of toll and said to him, "Follow me," and Matthew left all, rose up, and followed Jesus. Matthew gave up his career and wealth for this invitation. Afterward Matthew made a great feast in Jesus' honor. It was then that Jesus' enemies accused him of eating with "tax collectors and sinners."

In Matthew's gospel, the writer records very carefully Jesus' words and parables. After the Ascension, he is believed to have preached in Africa. It is not known for sure how he died, but it is thought that he was martyred in Ethiopia.

Because of his occupation before Jesus called him, Matthew's symbol in church art is the purse, or money bags we would say.

## ***The 2024 Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Church in Western Oregon***

The diocesan Annual Meeting/Convention took place the weekend of October 25. For those of us

who attended, it was particularly meaningful as it was the first time in five years that Convention was held in person. What a delight it was to reunite with delegates, both clergy and lay folks! The Convention kicked off on Friday with a beautiful Eucharist. That evening the St. Thomas delegation (Nancy Osborne, Mike Richardson, Deacon Mike, and Rev. Ann) along with Deacon Lauri Watkins and lay delegate Jerry Jacobsen from the Church of the Resurrection had a lively dinner together—almost giddy at times!



All day Saturday we took care of business—voting on the budget, electing representatives for various diocesan committee positions, voting on resolutions, etc. We all were grateful that there was nothing contentious. During breaks, we had time to visit the tables representing many of the ministries affiliated with the diocese, as well as the tables holding the gift baskets from individual parishes to be raffled off, with the proceeds going to one of the missions of the diocese.



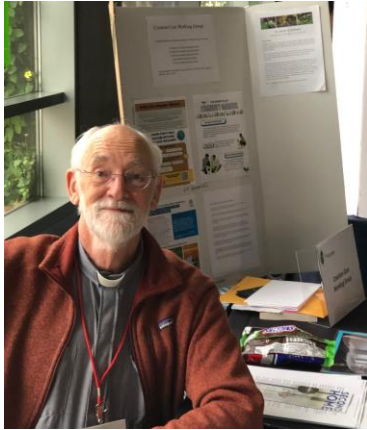
St. Thomas delegation using electronic devices to engage in voting process

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All in all, the experience of coming together as the Body of Christ in the Episcopal Church in Western Oregon was something to be treasured.



Deacon Allan Miles at the Creation Care information booth. St. Thomas Parish Administrator, JB Hoover is the chairman of this Diocesan committee.

## October Celebrations

### 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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## Reflections



There are places that touch us to the very core of our being – places imprinted in our mind's eye, reverberating in our memories, warming our hearts and touching our souls. It may be just one place that has such power for you, or there may be several such all-consuming places. For me there are several places

that have had such a powerful effect on me, whether it is the beauty of the place, the appreciation of God's creation, or the touching of all my senses. Some I have visited just once, like the Grand Tetons, The Cliffs of Maher and the Grand Canyon. And others I have returned to many times as if drawn by divine direction. Heceta Head cove and lighthouse is one of those places. It is where Oregon meets the sea; where cormorants nest and whales traverse on their migratory journey; where the ebb and flow of the tides enliven the tide pools along the shore; where the haunting history of the lighthouse and keepers' lives entrance me.

On a mid-October day, we took a drive over the Coast Range to delight in the fall color at its peak and follow the winding back roads off Highway 126. The weather was blustery but cooperated allowing the sun to energize us as we walked the beach and hiked the trail to the lighthouse. It is a trek we have taken countless times, but one that never ceases to enthrall us and fill us with gratitude. We appreciate that this special place is so close to home, and that it has been preserved. It is always fun to chat with the assigned hosts, retired adults who move from park to park and one historical site to another. We find out where they are from and compare notes on our knowledge of the Heceta Head light house. This special place is truly a beacon for its light has continued to shine for nearly 150 years casting its reassuring beam over 20 miles out to sea. It is that light that touches my soul and reminds me of the source of all life-giving light.

### *A Thanksgiving Blessing*

*Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you  
kneel to say your nightly prayer.  
And let faith be the bridge you build to  
overcome evil and welcome good.*

*Maya Angelou*

