



The Beacon

St. Thomas Episcopal Church



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

September 2024

Volume 25 Issue 8

In this Issue:

- Rector's Message
- Endowment News
- Ladies Book Group
- Apostle's Shield
- Outreach
- Pride Festival
- GrassRoots Garden
- Grace Notes
- Vestry Retreat
- Reflections

Vestry:

- Cindy Jensen,
Sr. Warden
- Joe Tulacz, Jr. Warden
- Lucy Barnett
- Chris King
- Nancy Osborne
- Adele Rennie
- Mike Richardson
- Holly Spruance
- Joe Tulacz
- Linda Whitehead

Rector – Rev. Ann Gaillard

Deacon – Rev. 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

Just as we did at St. Thomas last year, beginning September 1 through the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi in early October we will be observing the ecumenical "Season of Creation" during our Sunday services.

So, for the next six weeks or so, you will see some changes in our liturgy that will reflect concerns and celebrations around creation care. You will especially see the changes in the Collect of the Day, the Confession of Sin, and the Prayers of the People. Whereas last year we substituted our usual biblical second reading with a secular poem or meditation focused on creation, in response to parishioners' input we will make sure that the second reading will always be from the Bible, while placing the Creation Meditation separately in our worship booklet as we have been doing for almost a year.

Our music will include creation motifs (but all the hymns will be familiar to you!). As we do every fall, we are changing Eucharistic prayers; the one we'll be using during Creation Season will be familiar because it's the same Eucharistic prayer we always use in Advent. There may be a few other minor changes, but nothing that will shake you up.

For me, the celebration and joy of God's creation is summed up in the lyrics and music of "Look at the World," composed by John Rutter. You can find a recording of the piece here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDa-Mab4SoU>. And you can find the lyrics on page 8 in this Beacon issue.

Peace and many blessings,

Ann +



Endowment News

Q2 A Moderate Success

Your Endowment Fund ended the second quarter of 2024 (June 30) with total assets of **\$271,758.10**. This represents a quarterly increase of **\$6,471.15 (2.44%)**.



This modest increase is acceptable given that inflation is still very much a part of the developed world's economy.

Other results are more positive. For the year to date your Fund is up **\$19,928.04 (7.92%)**. The year-on-year increase is **\$29,565.32 (12.21%)**.

During the quarter Endowment Board members contributed \$2,500 to the Fund, targeting \$1,250 to the Young Musicians at St. Thomas Scholarship Program and \$1,250 to a yet to be created new ministry. The Board challenged our congregation to match the Board's \$2,500, for a total of \$5,000. Not only did our congregation match it, but exceeded it, bringing the **total to \$6,200!**

Thanks to **Keri Davis'** management of the Young Musicians' Program, we'll be enjoying young talent for the year to come.

Once again, on behalf of the Endowment Board, thanks to you, the congregation, for your generosity and support.

Duncan Murray, Chair

Outreach

The Outreach Committee reported that \$2,260 remains uncommitted of the \$5,000 designated in the 2024 budget.

Considering all that St. Thomas Outreach has accomplished in service and giving this year, this judicious management of designated Outreach funds is remarkable.

The Peanut Butter Sunday collection in July generated over 50 pounds of peanut butter to contribute to the St. John's food pantry. Then in August over a dozen St. Thomas members gave of their time and energy to sort hundreds of pairs of



shoes to be distributed to children in the underserved community. This effort is part of One Hope's determination to provide children in need of school readiness assistance with new shoes and socks, a fully equipped backpack and a haircut so that they can put their best foot forward as they begin the school year.



Joe and Anne with grands Eli and Lucy; Diane Landon and Lucy Barnett unpacking shoes

The rest of the St. Thomas crew included John and Holly Spruance, Lori Fisher and Judy Wilson who unpacked shoes and sorted by size, Sue Colvin and Dale Bixler who sorted and paired socks, and Cindy Jensen, Tricia Crisafulli, Joe, Anne and the grands who placed shoes in designated groupings.

Continued on page 2

At the September 8th church service Patti and Steve Buss, from One Hope, will make a presentation to the congregation about the Cottages of Hope project. The Outreach Committee is actively planning a fundraising lunch, catered by the Outreach Committee, to benefit the Cottages of Hope. The fundraiser is scheduled for Sunday, September 15th at St. Thomas.

To support the October Outreach effort, donations of blankets for Home Starter kits are being requested. Committee members will begin purchasing sweat suits for the Christmas gift bags our congregation provides to the children attending Head Start at St. Thomas. In November we will have the opportunity to assist the One Hope team with the packing of Thanksgiving boxes for underserved families. In December our faith community is encouraged to give to H.U.G.S. as we collect hats, underwear, gloves and socks for the unhoused supported by St. John the Divine. Also, in December we will once again enjoy the celebratory holiday activity of filling the gift bags for the Head Start children.

At St. Thomas *outreach* is also *inreach* as together we experience the joy of caring, giving and serving as Christ would have us do.

St. Thomas Book Group

The St. Thomas Ladies Book Group will meet on Thursday, September 26 at 1:30 pm in the Parish Library to share their impressions of the assigned



September selection, The Marriage Portrait by Maggie O'Farrell. Their lively book discussions are enhanced by much laughter, words of wisdoms and caring thoughts, as good friends and devoted readers are so inclined. Interested readers are always welcome.

A Joyful Noise

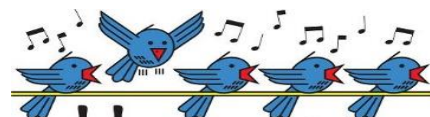


During the summer months, the St. Thomas Choir takes a well-deserved break, and we have missed

their wonderful reliable voices that encourage our congregation to lift our voices in song. Faithful choir members took turns as cantors throughout the summer. On a warm Sunday in August, Cantor Chris King stepped away from the organ to encourage the congregation in an uplifting rendition of "I am the Bread of Life." Rev. Ann from the communion rail and Music Director Keri Davis energized the musical effort, and if you were present, then you know what an uplifting moment it was.

Now Keri is rallying the choir and encouraging other voices to join the chorus. So, if you are so inclined to exercise your vocal chords, consider joining the choir for rehearsals before and after church on Sunday, September 1 to be a part of this devoted group who faithfully add the joy of music to our worship services.

Grace Notes



Grace is often revealed with a bit of grit and sweat. That was certainly the case on August 17 when several hearty St. Thomas souls gathered to scrape the window and door trim on the CCC building. That determined effort was followed by some careful painting enhanced by cheerful conversation. This project to spruce up the appearance of the CCC building was orchestrated by Joe Konieczka and his ever-industrious partner, Anne VanDerveer. They supplied the paint and equipment, and Paul Barnett, Linda Whitehead, Mark Pezzoni and Cindy Jensen participated in the effort.



Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3



Top left – Paul Barnett; on the ladder – Mark Pezzoni; on the ground – Linda Whitehead and Cindy Jensen – All cheerful painters

Not to be overlooked are Larry and Judy Wilson, who took home the boards for the Education Building roof trim to cut and paint before attaching to the roof facing. Grace personified and grace received.

GrassRoots Garden



Summer Tasting Tour – Shelton Day Camp: 24 six-year-olds plus camp leaders and young adult helpers

In our introductions, I asked if anyone had a garden at their house or if they ever gardened with their mom or dad or grandparents. Many hands shot up. About half the kids said they had gardens at home or garden with their grandparents. Emma said her grandpa grows zucchini and tomatoes.

I explained that for our tasting tour they'd have to guess what the plant was, then we'd try tastes. If they liked it, they could have more. If they didn't like it, they could simply drop it on the ground where it would compost. We then talked about how they ate it at home or how they liked to eat it.

In the herb garden they said mint was used in lemonade, toothpaste, tea, even in salad! Bay leaf – smells like bubblegum when crushed and sniffed. Use it in pasta sauce and soup. With rosemary, one girl offered, "My grandpa says, take a little clump of rosemary, put it in your hand and rub it between your palms then smell. Mmmmm!" All the kids promptly did that. How do you use rosemary? Roasted potatoes and in homemade bread. The teacher said she used it when she cooks chicken. Lavender was used as a room freshener, a little bouquet in the bathroom, in lavender lemonade.

Cucumbers, yellow summer squash and green zucchini, green pepper, green beans, tomatoes, small cabbages and cauliflower – their heads all followed as the tour continued to the plums from the cooler and apples from the orchard, and finally berries from the raspberry/blackberry patch. Even though we started with sweet crunchie cucumbers and followed next with yellow summer squash and zucchini, the squash was a hit!

While serving plums a girl asks, "Instead of a plum, could I have more cauliflower?" I cut off a chunk nearly the size of my fist and said, "Oh, I'm sorry, is that too big?" She said, "No, that's just right!"

One of the boys, Finn, who at first repeatedly asserted, "I don't eat that." Later at the green bean tunnel, surrounded by vines, says with wonder, "It's as if I'm in a dream..." In the berries patch with vines way above their heads, Finn again exclaims, "It feels like we're on an adventure!"

Everyone quickly learned how to tell what was a ripe blackberry and what was not. One of the boys says, "These berries are way better than in the grocery store!"

In all the enthusiasm and excitement, one of the girls asks, "If I came here all the time, could I eat like this every day?"

Large quantities of raw vegetables and fruit were eaten that day, enjoyed by children and adults alike.

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

When asked what their favorites were, most of them said they liked everything. All of them loved the berries!

Through all these samples of good tastes, concepts of what was liked and disliked changed, taste buds were altered and everyone's ideas of eating transformed one person at the time. New worlds of food possibilities opened for the future.

Summer Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, 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.

Pride Festival Presence

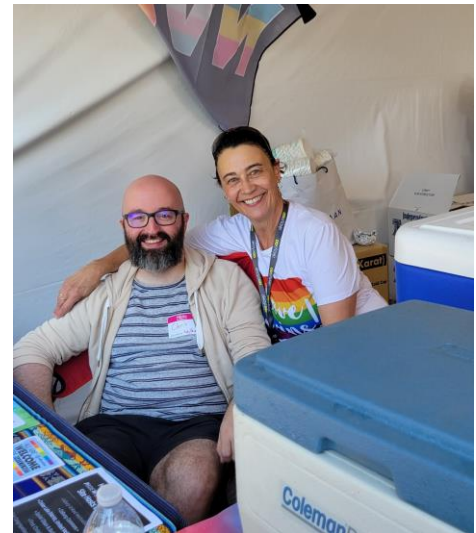
Our St. Thomas parish joined with several other faith communities to be a strong presence at the Pride Festival at Alton Baker Park on August 10. Adele Rennie and Bernie McCafferty were the primary presence in our St. Thomas booth where water was the main attraction on a warm day. Chris King joined them in providing water relief as well as information. Deacon Mike Watkins roamed the event to confirm the welcoming spirit offered by the various faith communities in Lane County to LGBTQ+. By all reports it was a celebratory event with a positive and life affirming spirit. How fitting that PRIDE is the acronym for Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Diversity and Excellence.



Deacon Mike with Bernie McCafferty and Adele Rennie



Deacon Mike circulating the Festival and Adele keeping everyone hydrated. Below – Chris King with Adele working the St. Thomas booth.



Vestry Retreat

On August 24 Vestry members and their spouses gathered on a lovely late summer day at Jensen's tree farm. All in attendance participated in a Celtic inspired greeting to a new day. While Vestry members retreated to what was a very lively and productive meeting, professional forester, Gary Jensen, led the spouses on a two-mile walk in the woods for some communion with nature along with some "tree talk." We shared a potluck lunch, great conversation and closed with a recording of the Lord's Prayer in Swahili by the Soweto Gospel Choir.



St. Thomas Vestry: Cindy Jensen, Lucy Barnett, Nancy Osborne, Chris King, Holly Spruance, Joe Tulacz, Treasurer Anne VanderVeer, and Adele Rennie
Not present: Mike Richardson and Linda Whitehead

Vestry is not an exclusive society. In fact, serving on Vestry is an opportunity to fully engage with our St. Thomas faith community. If you are asked by a Vestry member to consider this service, or if you are so inclined to serve in this capacity, be open to the opportunity.



Rev. Ann and Vestry spouses – Paul Barnett, Lee Gaillard, Joe Konieczka, Gary Jensen and John Spruance – join the table group chat.

There are also significant committees whose work is essential to the operations of St. Thomas. These include the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Facilities Oversight Committee, the Stream Team, Altar Guild and the Creation Care Committee to name just some of the ways in which one can serve. It is healthy for any entity to have thoughtful and considerate turnover of leadership positions. The only requirement for service is the willingness to give a few hours (or even less) of your time each month, a desire to engage more fully with members of our faith community, and above all, a love of the Lord and our St. Thomas house of worship and grounds.

Apostle's Shield - Bartholomew

In our August Beacon we read about how in the first chapter of the Gospel of John, Philip of Bethsaida was called by Jesus to be his disciple. The story continues in that chapter, as Philip invited his friend, Nathanael, to come and see this Jesus of Nazareth:



When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." (John 1:47-50)

Bartholomew is the last name of Nathanael. He came from Cana, a town about three miles from Nazareth. It was at Cana that later Jesus performed his first miracle (turning water into wine at a wedding), and it may have been that Bartholomew invited him to that wedding feast.

Continued on page 7

Bartholomew is said to have preached in Armenia, Cilicia, and as far as India. In India he is supposed to have died by being flayed. Three large knives, the instrument of his death, have become his symbol in church art.

Celebrations

September Birthdays

2	Lucy Duer
4	Steven Payne
12	Linda Whitehead Charlotte Heltman
17	Jean Payne
25	Harlen Rohde
29	Gail Morgan
30	Tilda Rohde



September Anniversaries



7	Joe and Anne Konieczka
15	Mark and Debbie Pezzoni

Reflections



As one who spends a good deal of time in the garden, in the forest or on a hiking trail, I am ever mindful of nature's managers and monitors. The bees and butterflies are the essential pollinators that assure renewal. The lizards and snakes, with their voracious appetites, control the bugs and mice populations that impact not just my garden but the

surrounding environment. Those little brown bats that emerge at dusk and soar about through the night provide rich fertilizer with their guano and helpful control of insect populations. Bees, butterflies, lizards, snakes and bats – managers all.

But what of the monitors? They are far more elusive but no less essential to nature's overall health and well-being. The tree frogs thrive in a healthy environment. There are dozens of these precious creatures habitating in my potted plants and hanging baskets. They come out at night to feast on insects, and as much as they eat, they never get more than an inch or two in length. These small, delicate creatures can spring out of a hanging basket and soar to the ground, landing safely with the aid of their strong leg muscles. They are an amazing wonder with their color-changing camouflage, and always a delight for the visiting grandchildren.

A favorite natural monitor is the lichen that grows thick in our forest. Lichen is one of the best monitors of a healthy environment. Often mistaken for moss, lichen is actually a symbiotic organism made up of algae and fungus. As a one-time guide at Mt. Pisgah, I would tell the school children that the fungus gives the lichen a home and the lichen feeds the fungus. In the wet weather the algae makes the lichen turn green, and in dryer weather the lichen is a dull green or even brown. Lichen growing in the forest appears on the bark of trees as "old man's beard" and hangs from the branches as "fish net lichen." It can be found on the forest floor in leaf-like configurations referred to as "lung lichen" or smaller clusters called "elk horn lichen." All have rich nutrients that feed the forest vegetation and trees.

Perhaps the most pleasing of nature's managers and monitors are the birds, for they do much more than sing. Whether songbirds or birds of prey, birds serve a multipurpose for a healthy ecosystem. Pest control, pruning, fertilizing, hearty decomposers – they do it all.

Next time you are enjoying your garden, taking a neighborhood stroll, navigating a forest trail, or just sitting out on your apartment deck, take a moment to consider nature's managers and monitors. God's creation is a wondrous orchestration of complex habitats to be cherished.



Look at the World

(Music and lyrics by John Rutter)

Look at the world
Everything all around us
Look at the world
And marvel every day
Look at the world
So many joys and wonders
So many miracles
Along our way

Praise to thee O Lord for all creation
Give us thankful hearts that we may see
All the gifts we share and every blessing
All things come of thee

Look at the earth
Bringing forth fruit and flowers
Look at the sky
The sunshine and the rain
Look at the hills
Look at the trees and mountains
Valley and flowing river
Field and plain

Praise to thee O Lord for all creation
Give us thankful hearts that we may see
All the gifts we share and every blessing
All things come of thee

Think of the spring
Think of the warmth of summer
Bringing the harvest
Before the winter's cold
Everything grows
Everything has a season
'Til it is gathered to the Father's fold

Praise to thee O Lord for all creation
Give us thankful hearts that we may see
All the gifts we share and every blessing
All things come of thee

Every good gift
All that we need and cherish
Comes from the Lord
In token of his love
We are his hands
Stewards of all his bounty
His is the earth and his the heavens above

Praise to thee O Lord for all creation
Give us thankful hearts that we may see
All the gifts we share and every blessing
All things come of thee
All things come of thee