



The Beacon

St. Thomas Episcopal Church



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

November 2025

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From the Senior Warden

We are only two months without a rector, and yet we are enjoying a delightful succession of supply clergy. Of the five we have experienced to date, all have expressed an appreciation for being among us. They have communicated thoughtfully with JB in the preparation of the worship booklet; they have delivered instructive and inspiring sermons; and they have engaged with us in our coffee hour. All have rescheduled with us and look forward to returning. What does that say about our St. Thomas faith community? We are welcoming, appreciative, a dedicated congregation and a beautiful house of God in which to worship. And we are blessed with a bonus – our dear Frank who never fails to step in to serve when we need him.

Now with all the scheduling of supply clergy, allow me to remind you that on Sunday, November 30 we will join parishioners from St. John's and St. Matthew's and share in the worship service at St. Matthew's. There will be no service at St. Thomas that Sunday. Carpool to St. Matthew's at 4110 River Road, Eugene, if you wish, but there is reasonable parking available.

Then on Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24, Rev. Nancy Gallagher has agreed to serve as celebrant for our service. The only caveat will be to hold the service at 4:00 pm. St. John's congregation traditionally does a 3:30 pm singing of carols before their service, but I asked Nancy that since we would be going an hour earlier, would they consider doing their sing-along after the service, and she agreed. It was a challenge to secure supply clergy for Christmas Eve, so with Nancy agreeing to this arrangement, we are able to hold a Christmas Eve Service at St. Thomas. I trust as many who are able as possible will attend and celebrate *the light of Christ in the world*.

Lots of moving parts to keep our St. Thomas parish in order, and with God's grace we are all engaged in this time of transition.

Faithfully,

Endowment News

As the Finance and Budget Committees begin to consider the 2026 parish budget, the Vestry was pleased to approve the motion from the Endowment Board to use \$5,000 of Endowment funds to be assigned to the Outreach budget for 2026. This is a wonderful use of Endowment fund earnings to support our St. Thomas Outreach ministries.



Outreach

Tricia Crisafulli reported to the parish the tremendous response from St. Thomas parishioners to the call for donated blankets to support the Home Starter program sponsored by Church of the Resurrection. The St. Thomas faithful were so generous with their contributions that it took several trips to Resurrection for Tricia to make blanket deliveries.



Search Committee News

Right now your Search Committee is working on updating the St. Thomas Parish Profile, which is the first step in the search process. Since our last profile, written during the search for Rev. Ann, much has changed at St. Thomas.

Our job creating a new profile was made much easier by our Tricia Crisafulli retyping the prior document. This gave us an electronic file that we could use to easily edit and update. Thanks, Tricia!

Your Search Committee has now summarized results of completed surveys we received from the congregation. We'll use these to match candidates' resumes to St. Thomas' needs as expressed by our members.

As I wrote last month, the search process is more complex than we'd like. So it will take more time than we would prefer. But the upside of this is that our search will be thoughtful, careful and always focused on finding the person best suited to be our next rector.

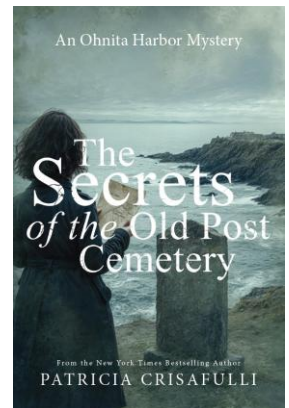
Thank you for your patience and support as we move ahead with this important task.

Duncan Murray, Chair



The Outreach Ministry will host its annual "Coffee Hour Luncheon" on Sunday, November 16 in the Parish Hall immediately following the church service. Hot dishes including chicken and vegetarian lasagna will be served along with salad, bread, and desserts. Please enjoy a delicious luncheon with fellowship. Takeout will also be available. A free will donation to the Outreach Ministry supports our sister organizations and their good works – locally as well as internationally. This includes One Hope/Project Hope, H.U.G.S., Head Start, Homestarters, St. John the Divine, Episcopal Relief and Development, Heifer International, and many more.

During the luncheon, St. Thomas parishioner and Outreach Ministry member Tricia Crisafulli will do a program to launch her newest book: *The Secrets of the Old Post Cemetery*, the third novel in the Ohnita Harbor Mystery Series. Everyone attending will receive a signed copy of the book.

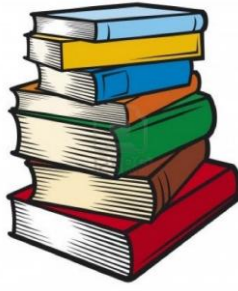


Join St. Thomas Outreach volunteers at the One Hope Thanksgiving Box project on Sunday, November 23, 2:30 – 4:00 pm at the Moshofsky Center, 2735 Leo Harris Pkwy, Eugene. This event is co-hosted by the University of Oregon Football Team. Volunteers will pack non-perishables in cartons to provide Thanksgiving dinners to underserved families in the Eugene/Springfield area. NOTE: Participation is limited to 20 volunteers from each organization. Please let Tricia Crisafulli or Sue Colvin know if you plan to attend.

St. Thomas Book Group

This is the time of year when the St. Thomas Ladies Book Group begins to determine their reading list for the coming year. If you follow along with the reading list, you can be sure the chosen selections will provide enriching reading for 2026. On Thursday,

November 20, Book Group members will gather in the Parish Library to complete their list of 2025 readings with a review of Whitehorn Woods by Maeve Binchy. As with all their gatherings, interested readers are welcome to enjoy what has become more than just a book review session, but a wonderful gathering of engaging and well-read women.



Grace Notes



For this month's *Grace Notes* there are two blessings to consider. For the past year as a parish of dedicated worshipers, we have tried a communion design of thoughtfully lining up in the center isle to receive communion. It is commendable that celebrants, parishioners and visitors graciously followed this practice. We can now say, "We tried it." And that effort has certainly been an expression of grace.

Now to the second note of grace – the Buildings and Grounds Committee. After this year of trial, it has been determined that now more than ever we need to return to the altar to celebrate communion and to receive *the body and blood of Christ*. As a family of faith in transition, there is something comforting as well as symbolic in gathering together around the Lord's table.

So with grace and their usual efficiency, once the Buildings and Grounds Committee got the green light, they went into action to install attractive grab bars on the pillars to enable those who need assistance to navigate the step up to the altar rail. Rest assured that those who cannot walk to the altar will still be provided the communion host from the celebrant and LEM when the usher directs them to where those individuals are sitting in the pews.

The 2025 Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Church in Western Oregon

On Sunday, October 19 following Diocesan Convention, Deacon Mike and our supply clergy Rev. Alfred Miller, shared news and impressions of the convention experience. Rev. Al enthusiastically shared of the value of community and the presence of representatives from churches throughout the Diocese. Deacon Mike reported that the gift basket from our five area churches was beautiful and generous. He added that JB served our delegation as chauffeur and recorder, while Adeline Hoover and Mike Richardson represented St. Thomas as thoughtful delegates. Many thanks to our St. Thomas team for their commitment of time and attentive engagement in Diocesan business.



Our St. Thomas banner stands out among the many banners representing parishes in the Diocese. The EuSpring basket was a generous collection of items representative of our region of Oregon.

In-gathering at St. Thomas



Our dynamic Stewardship team of Tricia Crisafulli and Joe Tulacz wrap up their dedicated ministry with the parish In-Gathering Sunday on November 2. We are all grateful for the enthusiastic efforts of Tricia and Joe.

All parishioners have either picked up their pledge certificates from the Narthex table or received them in the mail. The Ingathering is our traditional celebration of our faith-filled commitment to support the ministries and operations of our parish home, St. Thomas. Those pledge certificates that are mailed in will be presented at the altar along with the certificates that will be offered on November 2. And we will lift our voices to *praise God from whom all blessings flow*.

Organ Recital

Those of you who attended the September 7 service at St. Thomas may remember our supply clergy for that Sunday, Rev. Ken Dorsch. He is an accomplished organist and has shared recital information for three identical Sunday afternoon concerts on November 2, 9 and 16 at 2:00 pm at his home in Beaverton. Each recital will last about an hour including brief commentary on the instruments and the pieces he will be playing to illustrate the particular sound and style of each instrument.

Rev. Dorsch explains that modern technology has made it possible to hear and play some of the greatest organs in the world. He will present a program of eight pieces on eight different virtual organs. The instruments were built in the 17th through the 21st centuries and he has selected pieces that fit the historical example. Those in attendance will be able to hear each organ as it actually sounds in the church or building where it is installed.

Because of space limitations, those wishing to attend can send an email to kjdorsch@gamil.com with the date and number of people attending. Location: 15625 Norwich St., Beaverton, OR 97006

New Archbishop

Our resident parish Anglican, Lucy Barnett, shared the news of the newly elected Archbishop of Canterbury, Dame Sarah Mullally.



The election of a woman to the highest office of the Anglican Communion is historic. Dame Sarah is married with two children. She has spent over 35 years in the National Healthcare System in the UK.

In 1999 she became the youngest ever chief nursing officer for England. At the age of 16, Sarah committed her life to Christ and became a Christian. She was a dedicated volunteer in the church, but shortly after gaining leadership in NHS, she decided to become a priest. Early on in her pastoral career she was tasked with making reforms in the way the institution dealt with abuse. In 2012 she became Canon Treasurer at Salisbury Cathedral before becoming Bishop of Crediton in the Diocese of Exeter in 2015.

As Bishop of London, Dame Sarah was seen as someone who used her experience as an NHS administrator to help modernize the Diocese. When asked what she would bring to her new role, she said, "I have had experiences as a nurse leading complex organizations, as the government's chief nursing officer, and also serving a diocese that is very diverse in London. So I have been prepared for some of this, but recognize I can't do it alone. I need to do it with other colleagues." Dame Sarah said she realized that "being the first woman is

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historic, and I often go to schools, and particularly the young women sit up and listen, and they don't want to be the Bishop of London or the Archbishop of Canterbury, but it does allow them to think there are possibilities for them to fulfill their dreams."

GrassRoots Garden

With the Garden in full swing, one might be wondering "What CAN I do with all this beautiful produce, and how CAN I enjoy it for seasons to come?" Well, the answer is in the question...CAN!!

This month, at GrassRoots Garden, we had the wonderful opportunity to work with OSU Extension's Master Food Preservers to put on a 6-week series of canning and preservation workshops in the St. Thomas Episcopal Church kitchen. MFP's and GrassRoots Garden's own resident MFP and Kitchen Coordinator Jamie Johnson, lead over 90 students in step-by-step hands-on canning lessons using GRG produce. Students learned basic knife safety and proper canning procedures at the beginning of every class to further solidify the importance of good technique while home canning.

After the initial introduction, participants were split into small groups led by Master Food Preserver volunteers. In these groups, students had hands-on learning time and were free to ask as many questions about preservation as they could think of! After working in small groups, students were then able to watch as their prepared product was lowered into a water bath canner. Waiting for jars to finish processing quickly became the rapid-fire question bonanza! Master Food Preservers were tested on every aspect of their extensive knowledge from these wonderfully excited students, and they enjoyed every second.



Week one students were given recipes, produce, spices, and jars to follow along in preparing two different kinds of salsa. "Choice salsa" and "Chile Salsa". Leftover salsa was then added to the lunch provided by GrassRoots Garden and eaten alongside black bean soup, rice, tortilla chips, and fresh cut vegetables.

Week two covered pickling and how to utilize the left-over brine for quick pickling. Students made and took home one jar each of pickled carrots and pickled spiced beets. Yum!

Week three students used fresh picked apples to make delicious, ready to use, apple pie filling. MFP Lauri Bailey then had folks try the apple pie filling with saltine crackers to make a one bite apple pie! Who would have known that a Saltine cracker topped with apple pie filling would taste so good!

Week four gorgeous green pears were paired (no pun intended) with a light syrup and water bath canned to create a fantastic product that is sure to brighten even the darkest day in winter with its delicately sweet flavor.



Week five spiced tomato jam and raspberry jam. The spiced tomato jam shocked everyone with its rich and warming flavor on toasted bread. "A wonderful gift for any occasion" said one student after stating that they were "going to make 30 jars just to give away!"

Our final class was a change in pace and a lovely way to finish the series. Sauerkraut. With giant heads of cabbage and lots of kosher salt, students chopped and packed their own jars to take home

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and watch the magic of home fermentation take place.

Overall, the community loved the opportunity to learn from the MFP's and to take home a little part of GrassRoots Garden every time. We are hoping to do a few more classes in the winter months, so keep your eyes peeled on the OSU extension MFP page, or on the FFLC GrassRoots Garden Instagram page to learn about upcoming classes, demos, and seminars in our area.

November 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 at 458-221-0652 or merrybradley@foodforlanecounty.org.

Beacon contributors needed!

We may be a church in transition, but there is still so much going on at St. Thomas. Please consider sharing your perspective or a special story about the lay ministry in which you may be involved. Articles for publication in the Beacon are to be submitted to the editor (lajotkdk@aol.com) by the 25th of the month to be included in the next month's edition.

October Celebrations

November Birthdays

- | | |
|----|----------------|
| 11 | Diane Landon |
| 13 | Saundra Murray |
| 21 | Cindy Jensen |
| 27 | Keri Davis |



Fall Back

Be sure to set your clocks back before you go to bed on November 1 and enjoy an additional hour of sleep. Then arrive rested and refreshed Nov. 2 for our In-gathering service at St. Thomas.



Reflections



Witnessing this summer's draught and the impact of climate change led me to believe that our usual autumn splendor in Oregon, and particularly the Willamette Valley, would be less colorful. Dull brown foliage began to appear early in August. But nature has contradicted my assumptions. Whether driving the byways of Lane County, walking in Eugene/Springfield neighborhoods, or simply looking out over our forest hilltop, the vibrant array of orange, red and golden colors are resplendent framed by the evergreens. On a chilly morning when the fog lifts and the dew settles, the colors glisten in the emerging sunshine. Nature provides this glorious spectacle at the close of the seasonal progression before the landscape settles into its muted frosty hues. Thanks be to God for this glorious seasonal finale.

Grace

By Wendell Berry

The woods is shining this morning.
Red, gold and green, the leaves
lie on the ground, or fall,
or hang full of light in the air still.
Perfect in its rise and in its fall, it takes
the place it has been coming to forever.
It has not hastened here, or lagged.
See how surely it has sought itself,
its roots passing lordly through the earth.
See how without confusion it is
all that it is, and how flawless
its grace is. Running or walking, the way
is the same. Be still. Be still.
“He moves your bones, and the way is clear.”