



The Beacon

St. Thomas Episcopal Church



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

August 2026

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A Summer Note from your Senior Warden:

Resting, Growing, and Looking Ahead ~

As we settle into the heart of summer, I have been reflecting on the unique gifts this season brings to our church community.

In the Episcopal tradition, July and August place us right in the middle of the season called Ordinary Time. Summer gives us space for a quieter, steady rhythm, It is a time for spiritual maturity.

It is also a season for rest and renewal. As many of our families take time to travel, recharge, and enjoy vacations, our Sunday morning gatherings might feel a bit more relaxed. It allows us to slow down, connect more deeply with those in the pews around us, and embrace a simpler rhythm of spirituality.

Behind the scenes, summer is also a vital time for our parish leadership. The Vestry and various committees are using these weeks to take care of building maintenance, refresh our spaces, and plan for the vibrant program year that will kick off this fall.

Whether you are in town with us this Sunday or worshipping from afar while traveling, I hope you find time for physical rest and spiritual renewal over these coming weeks.

Thank you for your continued prayers, presence, and support of our shared ministry. I look forward to seeing you in the pews!

Joe Tulacz

Senior Warden



Outreach

The Outreach Committee continues to direct St. Thomas Outreach budgeted funds as appropriate. In July \$1000 was given to One Hope and the Thanksgiving

Box project. \$250 was directed to Heifer International.



The Center for Community Counseling Nourish Bags program was supported by St. Thomas parishioners on June 28th with the assembly of meal bags during coffee hour that Sunday. Parishioners are to put Tuesday, August 25th on their calendars as that is the scheduled date for the back-to-school event at Willamette Christian Center from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Participants will be sorting shoes and socks as we have done in previous years.

Looking ahead, Outreach Committee members are planning the Harvest Brunch for Sunday, October 18 following the service. Parishioners can look forward to good food and fellowship and the opportunity to support the community outreach efforts of our parish. Also in consideration is a St. Thomas representation at the Bushnell University Church Fair on Thursday, September 3 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Our involvement might be a way to attract college students to attend worship services at St. Thomas. The committee is considering small gifts and treats that could be given to students who stop by the St. Thomas table.

St. Thomas Book Group



The Book Group selection for August is The Secrets of Old Post Cemetery by Patricia Crisafulli. This is the third book in the Ohnita Harbor series in which Crisafulli weaves mystery, history and a bit of

romance to engage the reader in her wonderful storytelling. Though the book is a concluding chapter in the series, it is also a satisfying standalone book for those who may not have read the two prior books in the series. Tricia is a much loved member of our faith community, so it is quite special to see one of our own as a successful published author. Book Group members will especially enjoy reading and sharing their impressions of The Secrets of the Old Post Cemetery when they meet on August 27 at 1:30 pm in the Parish Library.

Grace Notes



Our ever-faithful St. Thomas parishioners, Larry and Judy Wilson, have been giving of their time and industrious talents to our parish facilities once again. Larry and Judy took on the task of repairing and painting the shed located behind the CCC and utilized by the Buildings and Grounds crew to store grounds maintenance equipment. As the photos show, this is a great improvement to the appearance of the shed and will benefit its long term viability. All efforts by the Buildings and Grounds Committee enhance the appearance of our church campus. Judy and Larry have consistently made significant contributions to that effort. They are grace personified.



The Music Men



Never let it be said that our St. Thomas faith community cannot find a way to make music, even when we are without our music director, Keri Davis. On a Sunday in June when Keri was on vacation, Joe Konieczka, JB Hoover and Jon Davies stepped up to sing the anthem and to support the hymns throughout the service. Jon supported the effort with his guitar accompaniment.

During the summer when our choir is on hiatus, their individual voices are scattered among the congregation to assist us in lifting our collective voices. So sing out and make a joyful noise.



GrassRoots Garden



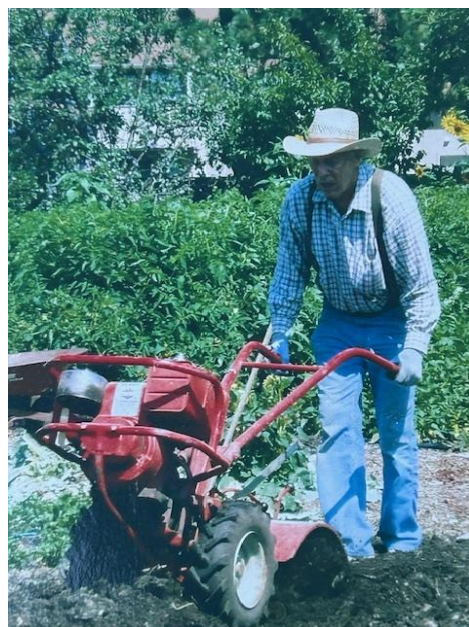
Building a Garden, Building a Community ~ Special 35th Anniversary Edition: Part 2

Master Gardeners have left their mark on nearly every corner of GrassRoots Garden. Over the years, they built compost and worm bins, managed the

composting site, made compost tea, and conducted compost research and experimentation. They assisted with annual crop selection, crop mapping and rotation planning, seed starting, and greenhouse management. They helped plant and maintain the orchard and cared for both mason bees and honeybees.

Master Gardeners also developed many of the Garden's specialty areas, including the Herb Garden, Berry Patch, Blueberry Patch, Kiwi Arbor, Adaptive and Educational Garden, Sedum Slope, Pollinator Hill Garden, and numerous flower gardens. They helped design, engineer, and construct critical infrastructure throughout the site, including the Garden Office, Wheelbarrow Enclosure, Kitchen, CoolBot, Greenhouses, Grow Tunnels, Tool Shed, Grape Arbor, Mudroom, and Cob Oven Structure.

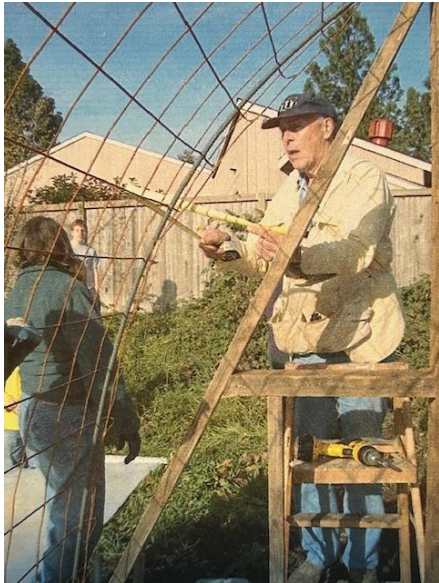
Among the many Master Gardeners who made lasting contributions, Jim Rundall played an especially significant role beginning in 2000. Bringing both practical expertise and equipment, Jim used his tractor to till beds and prepare growing areas, helping expand the Garden's production capacity. He contributed to the design, engineering, and construction of numerous structures and infrastructure projects that transformed the site into a more productive and functional space.



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Jim was also instrumental in the development and care of the orchard, pruning and tending fruit trees to help ensure their long-term health and productivity. In addition, he maintained honeybee and mason bee colonies that supported pollination throughout the Garden while providing educational opportunities for participants and visitors through his work as a Pruning Specialist and Pollinator Educator.



Master Gardeners have long been the face of the Garden and leaders within the community. With their boots on the ground and hands in the soil, they have served as mentors, teachers, and team leaders. Working side by side with garden participants, they have helped people learn to garden sustainably while producing healthy food for those in need. Just as importantly, they have helped build the diverse GrassRoots community itself, setting the positive, inclusive, compassionate, and supportive tone that has defined the Garden from its earliest days and continues to shape it today.

August Garden Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, 9:00am–4:00pm; Wednesday, 9:00am–1:00pm. 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.

From the Editor ~

A GrassRoots Garden Reminder

St. Thomas parishioners have been sent invitations to the GrassRoots Garden 35th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, August 15. The Garden is a great source of pride for our faith community. All are encouraged to attend, but Garden leadership request that if you plan to attend at some point during the day of celebration that you respond to the invitation with an RSVP.

Reflections



A dear friend recently shared with me these words from Mother Teresa – reflections on the power of prayer, loving as Christ loved us, and the joy that blesses us when love and prayer are central to our lives.

Live life beautifully. If we could only remember that God loves us, and we have an opportunity to love others as He loves us. Not in big things, but in small things with great love, then your country will become a haven of peace and a burning light of love in the world.

Prayer is necessary as air to breathe, as necessary as the blood in our bodies, as necessary as anything. We think so many things are necessary, but we are wrong. We have been deceived and we deceive ourselves. So few things are necessary, and prayer is one of them.

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Joy

A poem by Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Joy is strength –
Joy is love – Joy is a net of love by
Which you can catch souls.
She gives most who gives with joy.

The best way to show our gratitude
to God and the people is
to accept everything with joy.
A joyful heart is the inevitable
Result of a heart burning with love.

We all long for heaven where
God is but we have it in our power
To be in heaven with Him right now –
To be happy with Him at this very moment.
But being happy with him now means:
 loving as He loves,
 helping as He helps,
 giving as He gives,
 serving as He serves,
 rescuing as He rescues,
 being with Him for all
 the twenty-four hours,
 touching Him in his distressing disguise.

August Birthdays

16	Judy Wilson
19	Dan Paulson
23	Katrina Jensen



Schedule for August 2025

Tues. August 4 – Buildings & Grounds, 11:00 am

Tues. Aug. 4 – Electronics Recycling

Thurs. August 6 – Finance Committee, 10:00 am

Sat, August 15 – GrassRoots Garden
Anniversary Celebration 9:00 am – 7:00 pm

Tues. August 25 – Project Hope Outreach
Activity, Willamette Christian Ctr., 9:00 am

Sunday, August 30 – Joint Service
St. John Matthew's on River Road
No service at St. Thomas

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/>.

See the attached calendar for a complete schedule of
activities, meetings, and events.

