

St. John's Journal

June 2020



Worship Schedule

We do miss being together, seeing each other, hugging – lots of hugs in this tightly-knit church family of ours. True, some do not go for the hugging, but we all respect individual needs and feelings and love, love, love. For now, if you have access by smart phone or computer, attend our beautiful services on YouTube.

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 9: Stephen Mohorko
- 9: Harmony Harrison
- 15: Joan Markey
- 25: Lorilyn Holton

Anniversaries

- 26: Kay & Bill Marino
- 30: Nancy & Michael Mascio
- 30: Karen & Joe Sinko

Father Doug's Iconic Column

In the Acts of the Apostles, it appears that Christians were located at first primarily in Jerusalem. Then “a severe persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria.” (Acts 8:1) Later we are told “Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that took place over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch.” (Acts 11:19) While “a severe persecution” is not a good thing, something good came out of it. It pushed the Christians out of their comfortable fellowship in Jerusalem and it became an opportunity for the Christians to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with many others. At first, they only shared with other Jews. Then the Holy Spirit showed them through Peter that they needed to reach out to Gentiles as well. Then the Holy Spirit led them to send Paul and Silas and others to take the message on the road as far as Rome and beyond. This has led many to observe that it appears that the Holy Spirit used the persecution to push the early Christians out of their comfort zone and out into the world for new forms of ministry.

I bring this up because I believe that we are in a similar time. The Coronavirus has pushed us out of our comfortable gathering as a congregation. The virus and what it can do to people is not a good thing. It is forcing us to do things differently, which does not feel like a good thing. As a result, we are being forced to rethink what it means for us to be the Church, to be followers of Jesus. I believe that the Holy Spirit wants to lead us into reaching out to and including other people in new ways.

It is becoming clear that it is necessary for us to rethink how we continue together as a congregation. As we try to put together a plan for getting back together in the building, it has become evident that we cannot go back to the way things were any time soon. The way worship will happen will be quite different. We will be sitting 6' apart with masks on. While Cynthia will provide us with music, but there will be no singing. The Peace will not be passed but will have to be waved or some other gesture from afar. People will not come to the altar rail for communion. Instead, I will bring communion to each person and it will only be the bread. Another change that I have not considered until very recently is that some people will choose not to return for quite some time out of an abundance of caution. We will continue to share the worship on YouTube and Facebook, but it will be strange to return with only some of our friends there and it will be strange to watch from home and feel left out of the gathering.

We are considering how we can restart Coffee Hour with additional constraints around keeping the coffee and snacks safe and the bathrooms clean. And we will have to gather maintaining the 6' distance and continue to wear masks. What will Coffee Hour feel like under those conditions?

We are having Online Coffee Hour, which works well for some, but not others. Some are technologically challenged, and others do not feel comfortable with the social dynamics of the Zoom gathering.

So the question is, what are some different ways that we can help people connect with God and with each other?

One of the encouraging signs is that the BAC is beginning to reach out to the people of St. John. We are each reaching out to a couple people who are active in the church. What is encouraging to me is that we are also reaching out to folks who were at one

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Attend Church Even While We Cannot Gather!

Fr. Doug is presenting a beautiful service on YouTube each Sunday. Even if you do not have a computer but have internet connection, use your Smart Phones to log on. Services are reverent and feed our hearts and souls with the familiar rich liturgy and music. Know that while Fr. Doug partakes alone of the bread and wine he consecrates during the Eucharist, we are still part of the communion by our prayers, participation, and presence – even from our homes. Join Fr. Doug also for Coffee Hour on Sundays, also available through your Smart Phones. You will receive separate email with the link. Follow us on our web pages: www.stjohnsbandon.org. Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/St-John-Episcopal-Church-in-Bandon-Oregon-234749653862372>

“Love God, love our neighbor, and serve one another.”

Fr. Doug's Iconic Column (continued)

time active. It is not so much an effort to get them back as to recognize that they played an important part of our life together and we want to reach out to them in love and concern.

One suggestion that has been given to me is to start a Zoom Bible Study. Along with that is the desire for the basic Episcopalian Class to resume, so I am thinking about how that might happen on Zoom.

This is a time to keep our minds open to different possibilities and our ears open to each other's ideas. We need to be listening for the Holy Spirit's lead in these challenging times. So if you have any ideas, please do not hesitate to share them with me or to talk with each other about what possibilities come to mind. Let us open our eyes, our ears and our hearts to how the Spirit might be leading us into new ways to be the Church.

Fr. Doug Hale

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Dear God, thank you for all that is good, for our creation and our humanity, for the stewardship you have given us of this planet earth, for the gifts of life and of one another, for your love which is unbounded and eternal.

O thou, most holy and beloved, my Companion, my Guide upon the way, my bright evening star. *A New Zealand Prayer Book*

Good Neighbors Contributions

The last week in May, Fr. Doug took a huge amount of food from this congregation to the collection site for feeding Bandon's hungry. Thank you all for your generous hearts and contributions to this outreach. You are doing what Jesus asked of Simon Peter: *Feed my sheep*. The basket is on the counter in the kitchen, ready for your offerings.

Be Well! Stay Well!

As of June 1, 2020, about 103,000 people in the United States have died from the corona virus. This is a heartbreaking statistic, as we have had more deaths than any other nation in the world! About 369,000 have died worldwide. It is tragic that we lead the world statistically in the number of deaths from this pandemic. We are not the most populous nation. Clearly, we do not want any of our loved ones to perish in this pandemic, nor do we ourselves want to die.

It is important to continue to observe social distancing, the wearing of face masks when we are out in public, careful hygienic practices of washing our hands with hot soapy water as we sing our familiar "Happy Birthday" song at least twice. Avoid touching our faces, noses, mouths, and eyes with our hands, as those locations on our bodies give entry to microbes and the bad stuff that makes us ill.

Even as things start to open up again, please do not relax your caution. We do not know what "normal" will look at in the future. Indeed, it may never again look anything like what we have known before. But we will face it, and we will deal with it, with God's help.

Please, please call on us at St. John if you are sad, scared, lonely, hungry, out of supplies at home. Let us know. We are family, and we love and care for each of you — no exceptions! This is what family does. This is what family is.

"The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious and give you peace."
Amen

Revised Common Lectionary

June



7: TRINITY SUNDAY

Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8;

2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

14: 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 19:2-8a; Psalm 100; Romans 5:1-8;
Matthew 9:35-10:8.

21: 3rd Sunday after Pentecost (Father's Day)

Jeremiah 20:7-13; Psalm 69:8-11, 18-20;
Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39.

28: 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18;
Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42



More musings from Denise:

Finding Beauty in Imperfection

We are living in extraordinarily imperfect times, but the disruption of our daily routines has not been without its blessings. People seem to be more generous and compassionate, more creative and industrious, more contemplative and appreciative of simple things they may have taken for granted just a few months ago.

For instance, have you noticed you have more time to look at your surroundings lately? My home has accumulated the trash and treasures of at least four generations, so there is a lot to sift through. It's a way of keeping busy when I have no one to talk to and can't go out and about as freely as I used to.

Mother's Day found me examining items in Mom's china cabinet and recalling stories about them. Mom has been gone 13 years, but it is still "Mom's China Cabinet." (Only a couple pieces are truly mine.) There are collectible tea cups and saucers her father gave her on the nine birthdays she had while he was still alive, and a couple prized 19th century possessions from her grandmother. These were her only connection to her early childhood home and the relatives she was forced to leave behind in 1930. Considering the number of times we moved, I'm surprised so many survived.

One is a porcelain match striker from Limoges, France. It is conical, with cobalt blue rims and dots on a white background. A cup at the center holds matches, and on its sides are horizontal raised ribs for striking a light. She often took it out to show guests. I never realized how much it meant to

her until the day it slipped from her hands, hit the floor, and shattered into a thousand tiny pieces. At that moment, she seemed to shatter too. She was

inconsolable. After all the pain, suffering and loss she had endured in life, this was the one loss she could not seem to overcome.

I swept up the shards and glued them back together. The result of three days' painstaking restoration with a magnifying glass and tweezers is pretty humble, but she seemed to accept it – as mothers do when we try to help. Life went on, and the antique (now much less valuable to a collector than before) gained another layer of history and a deeper value for me.

Recently, I read about the Japanese art of **kintsugi**, in which cracked pottery is repaired with gold dusted lacquer to showcase its age and damage, rather than trying to hide it. Each golden vein brings out the beauty of the object, helping us accept it the way it is, instead of how we think it should be.

If we can apply this sense of beauty to our daily lives by focusing on our blessings instead of what we lack, on the lessons life has taught us instead of the struggle to learn them, even today's imperfect circumstances can be borne with grace and gratitude. As someone recently wrote:

“You're not stuck at home, you're safe at home. One word can change your attitude and one cough can change your life.”



June 2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> 8: AA	<i>3</i> Eve: AA	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> Trinity Sunday	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> 1 p.m. BAC Meeting 8: AA	<i>10</i> Eve: AA	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> 2nd Sun. after Pentecost	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> 8: AA	<i>17</i> Eve: AA	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> 3rd Sun. after Pentecost	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> 8: AA	<i>24</i> Eve: AA	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 4th Sun. after Pentecost	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> 8: AA				

St. John Prayer List

Myra & Jim; Roy Arnoldt; Juanita; Marilyn Carraher; Gary Walderman; Kelly; Amy; James; Sue Warren; Bea Bone; Kelly; Michelle; Mike Lane; Daniel Undell; Kathy; Mike Fitzgerald; Melissa Lawson; Brady, Lori & Jay; Sandy Bourne; Kimberly Small-Jonas; Zoe Bloom; Donna & Kevin Bloom; Marilyn Pratt; Bill, Matthew, & Steven; the Gaffney family; Deanna; Sheri; Debbie.

In our Southwest Convocation: St. Timothy, Brookings; Emmanuel, Coos Bay; St. James, Coquille; St. Andrew, Florence; St. Mary, Gardiner/Reedsport; St. Matthew, Gold Beach; St. Christopher, Port Orford; our own congregation of St. John, Bandon.

In the Bandon Ministerial Association (BMA) cycle of congregations: Pacific Community Church; Restoration Worship Center; Seabird Chapel Church of God; Seventh Day Adventist Church.

In our diocesan cycle of prayer: Eugene: St. Thomas; U or O Campus Ministry; St. Andrew; Forest Grove: St. Bede; Oregon City: St. Paul; Portland: All Saints; Ascension; Riddle: Church of the Ascension; Roseburg: St. George; Wilsonville: St. Francis of Assisi; Woodburn: St. Mary,

Pray also for medical personnel: physicians, nurses, nursing assistants, all who care for the sick and the environs of their care; for caregivers, for first responders, for those who daily provide services for us. Remember the unemployed; the homeless; those who are alone; all in our own country and around the world who suffer because of racism, hatred, and oppression. Pray for all God's children and His creation.

BAC

Senior Warden Denise Skillman
Junior Warden Tom Glunt
Clerk: Sally Glunt
Treasurer Kay Marino

Members at Large: Laurea Arnoldt, Mary Garrett, Judy Jackson, Caroline McKemy, Lani Reynolds.

Church Administrator:
Virginia MacCallum

Office Hours: Tuesdays 2-6

The Rev. Doug Hale, Priest-in-Charge

St. John's Episcopal Church

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WHO WE ARE

St. John Episcopal Church is a community where God leads us in healing, teaching, reaching out, and stewardship.

We are a community that sees Christ in all people and judges none. We believe in inclusion for all people regardless of race, gender, age, disability or sexual orientation. We aim to break down barriers that separate us from one another and to provide a home for anyone on their spiritual journey. Our work brings together people of faith who believe in the inherent dignity and worth of all people on their journey.