

St. John's Journal

February 2021



A Letter to Denise Skillman , Outgoing Senior Warden

Dear Denise,

Your tireless work as Senior Warden has held St. John's together through thick and thin and kept our red doors wide open. Your loving dedication inspires the rest of us to work hard in support of this special place and its special people.

*For all of the problem solving, hand holding, crisis intervening, budget generating, priest hiring, liturgy planning, report writing, sleep losing, people corralling, bishop communicating and last but not least - your patience, we say **THANK YOU.***

I hope you've experienced joy and reward within the hard work. May you now enjoy a well-deserved respite from leadership and sit back and watch as your labors take further root and grow.

Most sincerely and gratefully,

Judy Jackson

Fr. Doug's Iconic Column

It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of January 2021. It has been a significant month at the national level and at the level of the Diocese of Oregon. We have concluded the month with the ordination and consecration of our new Bishop Diana Akiyama.

This past Tuesday, the clergy had their first Zoom meeting with Bishop Diana, when we discussed the ends and outs of how to have Ash Wednesday under pandemic conditions. While vaccinations are happening and we are all anticipating the day when we will get our first one, it will still be some time before that happens for all of us. And then there is the unanswered question about whether people who have had both doses will still be able to be carriers of the virus. So how things will look at St. John during the next few months is still up in the air.

Given all the good input that I received on Tuesday's meeting from the Bishop and other clergy, I am sure that our celebration of Ash Wednesday will still be online. What this means is that I will not be giving the imposition of ashes during the service. But with the thoughtful ideas shared at the meeting I am in the process of developing a plan for how to make the service meaningful despite the restrictions. So, stay tuned for more information about this in a couple weeks.

Innovation seems to be the name of the game during the season of COVID. But for all of us, we long for less innovation and more of the familiar. This season is not over with yet, but my hope is that in a couple months we may be able to start the process of gradually moving back toward some semblance of "normal."

Like many of you, I miss being with you all. So until we are able to be together in person, be safe, watch out for those you encounter and may the Spirit of God hold us together until we meet again.

Fr. Doug



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

We usually have opportunities to give to specific causes through collecting special offering during worship. But this year without in person worship things are a little different. Usually we collect money for the St. Paul's Day Theological Education Fund. The other opportunity is to make a contribution to Bishop Akiyama's Discretionary Account, in celebration of her consecration and ordination. If you would like to contribute to either of these funds, please mail a check to the church made out to St. John Episcopal and make a note how you want the money distributed.

A Prayer for Us

*Lord, behold our family here assembled.
 We thank Thee for this place in which we dwell; for the love that unites us;
 for the peace accorded us this day; for the hope with which we expect the
 morrow;
 for the health, the work, the food and the bright skies that make our lives
 delightful;
 and for our friends in all parts of the earth.
 Let peace abound in our small company.*

Robert Louis Stevenson

*Musings from Denise***Signs of Change**

Change is not greeted favorably by everyone, but change is what everyone needs in order to flourish. The year 2020 brought the types of change no one wants: illness and hardship, rancor and violence, fear and death. Yet a young poet, Amanda Gorman, was able to glean some good out of all of this:

"...Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true.
 That even as we grieved, we grew.
 That even as we hurt, we hoped.
 That even as we tired, we tried...."

One of last year's many disappointments was not being able to formally welcome Fr. Doug Hale through an installation ceremony presided over by the Bishop planned for late April. It's one of those traditional events that blesses and solidifies a bond between clergy and congregation, but it was cancelled due to pandemic restrictions. By that time, Fr. Hale was three and a half months into his tenure as our Priest-in-Charge and no stranger to our congregation, having frequently served as our Supply Priest. Some might argue a ceremony was not necessary, but ceremony is our customary way of marking notable changes in our lives: birthdays, baptisms, confirmations, graduations, marriages, anniversaries, ordinations, installations, inaugurations and burials. The *Book of Common Prayer* has prayers and pages devoted to most of these. What they all have in common is the desire of a whole community to acknowledge and celebrate the achievement of individuals growing into their full God-given potential.

Late last month, our nation inaugurated a new President and our Diocese installed a new Bishop. These two epic events were marked by ritual celebrations – some traditional and some modified by Covid-19 restrictions. They tested the creativity of the event organizers, and may even influence how such events are handled in a future Covid-free world, because they seemed to feature more key participants and observers than ever before. I, for one, preferred the optics of a sea of fluttering flags on the National Mall to a packed crowd of people struggling to see and stay warm. Such alterations in our customs were unthinkable a year ago, but we are older and braver and more tech-savvy now.

This month, a new Senior Warden and Bishop's Advisory Committee will take over administrative leadership at St. John. Passing of the gavel would normally take place at the Annual Meeting on February 7th, but will happen more quietly a few days later, since we are still prevented from meeting in person. I hope you will give them all the support and encouragement you have given to the retiring BAC members and especially to me. The year 2021 has already begun to bring many changes. Let's embrace all the good changes to come.

Good Neighbor Food Pantry

In January, Denise Skillman again took our donations to the community food pantry. Our St. John contributions totaled a whopping **200 pounds!**

Many of us may not be aware that we are also the pantry conduit for one of our Old Town merchants because somehow we are listed as a charitable food pantry. Cranberry Sweets always gives us their seasonal overproduction to take to the pantry. And more recently, they also sent us their overproduction of flavored popcorn — and more great candy!. These are wonderful treats that would not otherwise be available for pantry clients.

If you are not doing so, please patronize the Old Town merchant that generously passes along its good treats. And give our own Denise thanks and a pat on the back for picking up and delivering the goodies to the ecumenical community food pantry.

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>

Speaking of Food Donations

Recently we received donation of food items that had (1) been opened already and (2) were stale and past their expiration dates.

These items had to be thrown away, as we cannot give people food that has already been opened. All food has to be cannery/factory fresh and sealed.

Please be sure your gifts for the food pantry have not been opened. It is the only safe way to donate safely.

Please stay healthy. Mask, be careful!, maintain social distance.

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

February 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	<i>1</i> 7:30 AA	<i>2</i> 8:00 AA	<i>3</i> 8:00 AA	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
7th Sun. after Epiphany	<i>8</i> 5 Good Earth 7:30 AA	<i>9</i> 1 pm BAC 8:00 AA	<i>10</i> 8:00 AA	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
14th Last Sun. after Epiphany	<i>15</i> 7:30 AA	<i>16</i> 8:00 AA	17th Ash Wednes day 8:00 AA	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
21st Sun. in Lent	<i>22</i> 7:30 AA	<i>23</i> 8:00 AA	<i>24</i> 8:00 AA	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
28th 2nd Sun. in Lent	Birthdays: 1: Leland Pestana; 5: Bill Marino; 6: Maggie Lowery; 19: Myra Lawson; 20: Ann Sandstrom; 26: Denise Skillman. Anniversaries: 13: Helen and Eddie Miller; 15: Lara and Dave Mickle.					

OUR PRAYER LIST

Tom Glunt, Mary S., Don D. & family, Judy B., Jon & Linda S., Alberta R., Ken & Nikki D., Kirsten, Todd K. & family, Mary A., Sabra, Doris, Gisela, Karen & Joe, Myra & Jim, Roy, Juanita, Kelly, James, Sue W., Bea B., Michelle, Mike L., Kathy, Mike F., Melissa L., Brady, Sandy B., Kimberley S., Zoe B., Donna & Kevin B., Marilyn P., Bill & Steve, the Gaffney family, Deanna, Sheri, Debbie, Elliot, Bill M., Lenor, Jamie S., Connie S. We also remember members of our convocation: St. Andrew, Florence; St. Mary, Gardiner; Emmanuel, Coos Bay; St. James, Coquille; St. Christopher, Port Orford; St. Matthew, Gold Beach; St. Timothy, Brookings. Pray also for our newly ordained bishop, Bishop Diana Akiyama.

UPDATE THE PRAYER LIST

Please help us keep the listings on our prayer list current. This is an on-going process, so please check the listings above to be sure it is current.

You may email or call the church to make your additions or corrections to the listings. Call 541-347-2152 or email to this address: stjohns.bandon@gmail.com.

BAC

Senior Warden

Denise Skillman

Junior Warden: Tom Glunt

Members at Large:

Laurea Arnoldt, Mary Garrett, Judy Jackson, Lani Reynolds

Treasurer: Kay Marino

Clerk: Sally Glunt

Music Director:

Cynthia Mohorko

Church Administrator:

Virginia MacCallum

Priest-in-Charge:

The Rev. Doug Hale

Office Hours:

The office is not presently open for visitors to reduce the chances of spreading illnesses. The administrator is working in the office and is taking and returning calls.

**St. John's
Episcopal Church**

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Website: www.stjohnsbandon.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/St-John-Episcopal-Church-in-Bandon-Oregon-234749653862372>



W H O W E A R E

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.