



# St. John's Journal

March 2021

## Fr. Doug's Iconic Column

This past month we have passed the mark of 500,000 deaths due to the COVID-19 virus and this month we will pass the 1-year mark of discontinuing in-person worship at St. John. The number of deaths far exceeds the early predictions and the year long absence far exceeds what we had hoped would be a few months of inconvenience.

With a number of us receiving one of the vaccines, we have a new hope that we can make a move toward, if not totally back, to normalcy. There is also the encouraging note that while Coos County continues to be in the Extreme Risk level, the Bandon area is significantly below the levels of cases identified in Coos Bay/North Bend and Coquille is somewhere in between.

We would love to return to in-person worship in the sanctuary, but the air circulation in that room is not all that good. We have done some looking into how to improve the circulation, whether we can better filter the air, but that approach has not been very promising. One idea is to have more than one service each Sunday so that even greater distances between people attending could be maintained.

When the weather improves, we could try doing outdoor gatherings, but that is so dependent upon the weather behaving. So another proposal has arisen of using Theresa Hall for worship. This would involve opening the windows to provide good air circulation. People would need to dress warmly, but at least we would be out of the rain and would not experience the full force of the winds. We would have to institute a practice of thoroughly cleaning of the hall and bathrooms because of the continued use of the hall by three different AA groups during the week.

We also need to realize that some of us have preexisting conditions that make some of us more vulnerable to the virus. And some, because of their youth, may not have received the vaccine. So, there is a recognition that not everyone may feel safe enough to return. So we will continue to offer worship online.

Whatever way we choose, we would still require the wearing of masks and keeping 6 feet apart. There would be no singing and we would be limited to receiving only the bread for communion. We will have a thorough discussion of these approaches at the BAC meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>.  
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**Fr. Doug's Iconic Column (continued)**

We will be in touch with everyone to get a better sense of where people are regarding these matters before we proceed. You are important to us.

As I right this I feel like I am not saying anything new. What I wish I could say is that the crisis is over, and we can now go back to normal. But what we are left with at this time is trying to find some way to reclaim at least part of our life together.

Fr. Doug



**BAC**

**Senior Warden;** Judy Jackson

**Junior Warden:** Sally Glunt

**Members at Large:** Mary Garrett, Lani Reynolds, Harmony Harrison, Maggie Lowery

**Treasurer:** Kay Marino

**Clerk:** Denise Skillman

**Bankers:** Mary Garrett & Judy Jackson

**Convention Delegates**

**Delegates:** Kay Marino & Denise Skillman

**Alternates:** Laurea Arnoldt & Sally Glunt

**Staff**

**Priest-in-Charge:**

The Rev. Doug Hale

**Music Director:**

Cynthia Mohorko

**Church Administrator:**

Virginia MacCallum

**Office Hours:**

**The office is not presently open for visitors to reduce the chances of spreading illnesses. The administrator is working alone in the office and is maintaining necessary social distancing through this pandemic.**

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

## **We Gather Together**

Even though we cannot gather to worship in community, we have our familiar and much beloved liturgies on Sundays and high holy days like Ash Wednesday. Father Doug records services complete with homily at our altar with a lay eucharistic minister and lovely music by Cynthia Morko, our music director. He sends us email with the link to the YouTube broadcast and also places the information on our Facebook link. With internet access, you can use your Smart phone or your computer to be part of the community of worship as he celebrates the Eucharist. Fr. Doug will also invite you to the online coffee hour on Sunday mornings.

Follow us to our worship on our web pages: [www.stjohnsbandon.org/](http://www.stjohnsbandon.org/) Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/St-John-Episcopal-Church-in-Bandon-Oregon-234749653862372>

## **Your Prayer List**

We want to be sure our prayer list is current with names of those for whom you want prayers.

If you are at the church, you may give us that information on the list on a clipboard. It is on the table in the hall under the bulletin board. You may also call the church at 541-347-2152 and leave a message on the answering machine. In addition, you may also email the office at this address: [stjohns.bandon@gmail.com](mailto:stjohns.bandon@gmail.com).

## **RUMMAGE SALE**

Do you have old stuff? Things not wanted anymore? Start saving all your goodies to donate to St. John Episcopal Church's Biennial Spring/Summer Rummage Sale and Raffle. We can sell clothing, furniture, fishing gear, sport items, tools, household décor, kitchen things, etc.!! Any artists or crafters out there? We could use your contributions for a raffle or an arts table! For more information, contact Mary, Judy, Laorea, Sally, Lani, or Jennifer (Chair).

## **Feeding Bandon's Hungry**

You gave **93 pounds** of food to Good Neighbors Food Pantry in February! Well done! Even though we are not able to gather together, you still carry out the missions of outreach to our community. Special thanks go to Denise Skillman, who takes our offerings to Good Neighbors each month! Denise also picks up and transports the donations from Cranberry Sweets that come through us to Good Neighbors

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. *Hebrews 13: 16*

## From the Senior Warden

### We Persevere

I've been following the Mars Perseverance mission and wonder if the rover will indeed discover evidence of past life on Mars. I've been thinking about that team of brainy NASA scientists and how they must have worked long and hard to make this happen. It's made me take a step back from earthly worries and think about hope for the future.

It seems like light-years since we worshiped together on a Sunday. But we persevere as a team and hold on through these endless, pandemic months. While the space of St. John's may be more still than is normal, there **is** life on our little planet of faith.

-Altar guild still prepares host, wine, vessels and linens for the Sunday service.

-Fr. Doug and LEM's still bring us closer to God via the weekly recordings. (AV technology isn't rocket science but it's alien to most of us and Fr. Doug has mastered it.)

-Cynthia's fingers still defy gravity as they fly across the piano keys.

-Ginger still monitors communications, visits the Post Office, prepares the newsletter, and assists Fr. Doug in all sorts of administrative ways.

-Kay still pays bills, tracks pledges and donations and prepares reports. She handily manages a subject that makes most of us turn our eyes in our orbits (*look it up*).

-The BAC still meets - although virtually - to plan and make decisions that keep our doors open and our church vital.

-Medical Loan Closet volunteers still meet clients who need roving equipment for their own temporary needs.

- 12 Step programs still meet in Theresa Hall seeking serenity in recovery.

- You all still drop off food donations for the Good Neighbors program – thank you!

- And last but not least, Cherie still works broom, mop and vacuum to keep our building spic and span.

So even though the parking lot isn't full on Sundays, there's still life at St. John's. The lights are on and we the people go about the business of church. The immediate future is unknown but full of hope - just imagine how very exciting it will be to come back together. Soon, soon!

Until then, I send you all a digital fist bump in thanks for all that you do to keep St. John's spinning on its axis.

Judy Jackson  
Senior Warden

# March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i>  <i>7:30 AA</i>	<i>2</i>  <i>8 AA</i>	<i>3</i>  <i>8 AA</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> <i>3rd Sun of Lent</i>	<i>8</i> <i>5 Good Earth</i> <i>7:30 AA</i>	<i>9</i> <i>1 BAC</i> <i>8 AA</i>	<i>10</i>  <i>8 AA</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> <i>4th Sun of Lent</i>	<i>15</i>  <i>7:30 AA</i>	<i>16</i>  <i>8 AA</i>	<i>17</i>  <i>8 AA</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> <i>5th Sun. of Lent</i>	<i>22</i>  <i>7:30 AA</i>	<i>23</i>  <i>8 AA</i>	<i>24</i>  <i>8 AA</i>	<i>25</i> <i>The Annunciation</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> <i>Palm Sunday</i>	<i>29</i>  <i>7:30 AA</i>	<i>30</i>  <i>8 AA</i>	<i>31</i>  <i>8 AA</i>			

**Our Prayer List**

Tim, Greg, Matthew, Donna, 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., Kimberly 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, Lord, over a half-million Americans who have perished from the Covid virus. We pray for the comfort of wll who grieve their departed loved ones.

Loving God, hope of the poor and source of all health: Look with compassion upon your creatures who suffer under the weight of this pandemic. Fill us with love toward our neighbor; deliver us from partisan motives as we strive for the commongood; and strengenthose who labor for our health. We ask this through the healerof your creation, Jesus Christ, our health and our salvation. Amen.

**March**

**Birthdays**

**12:Wailani Reep**

**20:Laurea Arnoldt**

**22:Robin Hanna**

**27: Mike Fitzgerald**

**Anniversaries**

**17:Sally & Tom Glunt**

**28: Gail Pray & Stephan Beauton**



**St. John's  
Episcopal Church**

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**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.