



St. John's Journal

April 2021

Fr. Doug's Iconic Column

We have just entered Spring, many of us have either received all our vaccines or at least gotten started, and Holy Week is right in front of us. It seems like a momentous and hopeful time.

It seems like an appropriate time to move back to in-person worship. The Bishop's Advisory Committee (BAC) and I have been discussing making this move for some time, and we think we have a plan for coming back together. Our original plan included returning to worship in the sanctuary while practicing safe distancing, wearing masks, not singing, a no touch Peace and communion limited to the bread. However, after some evaluation of our facility, it was determined that we cannot provide good ventilation in the sanctuary. None of the windows open and we cannot install filters in the furnace that would be good enough to filter out viruses.

So we will be having our first in-person worship in a year on April 4, Easter Sunday, in Theresa Hall. It is easier to provide good social distancing in the room, and better ventilation can be had by opening some of the windows. The room will be thoroughly cleaned the day before.

People are excited about coming.

As exciting and as hopeful as this is, there is a downside. Not everyone is ready to return. There are those who have yet to receive the vaccine at all or are still waiting for the second shot or wanting the vaccine to be in full effect before returning. Then there are those with complicating health issues that make them even more cautious. So as happy as we will be on Easter Sunday being together, there will also be sadness because a significant number of us will be missing. We will continue to long for the day when we will all be free to gather. This year-long journey is not over yet and may not be for some time to come.

Given the number of folks who have indicated that they are coming on Easter, we will be at our limit for the number of people who can gather in Theresa Hall. So as more people are ready to return, we will need to seriously think about having two services on Sunday morning, until restrictions are loosened about how many can gather in the room. We will keep you informed about how we are moving forward.

In the meantime, we will continue to offer the service online. This will change some. For the past year, we have been producing the worship services on Saturday afternoon and putting them online so that people can watch them from Saturday evening on. Now because the service will happen on Sunday (continued page 2)

Fr. Doug's Iconic Column (continued)

morning at our traditional worship time, it will be available to watch live on our YouTube channel. It can then be watched after that on YouTube or on our Facebook page, whenever the viewer would like.

We all long for a return to "normal" worship (and so many other activities), so we will continue to take steps in that direction as we can. We will also come out of this different than we were. We have learned new things about how to reach out to people using the internet. This has become a tool for reaching our members who cannot attend for some reason and a way for potential member to see what we are like. This is a gift this difficult time has given us. Resurrection life is not quite the same as life beforehand.

Peace, my friends,

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.”

From the Senior Warden

Yes, it gets windy in Bandon. The walls tremble, the pines bend and things go thump in the night. We hold on to our hats, batten down, button up and lean with determination into the wind.

To honor Bandon's wind but also the winds of hopeful change on our horizon, I share this bit of beauty from Rachel Held Evans.

The Spirit is like wind, earth's oldest sojourner, which in one place readies a sail, in another whittles a rock, in another commands the trees to bow, in another gently lifts a bridal veil.

Wind knows no perimeter. The wildest of all wild things, it travels to every corner of a cornerless world and amplifies the atmosphere. It smells like honeysuckle, curry, smoke, sea. It feels like a kiss, a breath, a burn, a sting.

It can whisper or whistle or roar, bend and break and inflate. It can be harnessed, but never stopped or contained; its effects observed while its essence remains unseen. To chase the wind is folly, they say, to try and tame it the very definition of futility.

"The wind blows wherever it pleases," Jesus said. "You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit" (John 3:8). We are born into a windy world, where the Spirit is steady as a breeze and as strong as a hurricane.

May our church family be as steady as the Spirit and our community as strong as a Bandon breeze, and may we and all those that we pray for have the wind at our backs.

Rachel Held Evans was a best-selling author who wrote about faith, doubt, and life in the Bible Belt.

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.

Feeding Bandon's Hungry

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

Thank you for continuing to bring food to the church for our contributions to Bandon's ecumenical food pantry.

We are grateful to Denise for transporting your gifts to the Neighborhood Food Pantry.

*Musings from Denise***Awakening to a "New" Year**

There is no date on the calendar that causes me more anxiety than the first of April. As a child, I dreaded going to school on April Fool's Day, because invariably I was the victim of not just one but numerous pranks throughout the day. What was even worse was learning that this annual ordeal was supported by parents, teachers, and everyone I knew as "part of growing up" and learning to be less gullible.

By the three o'clock bell, I was usually in tears, which only added to my classmates' merriment. Although I can't recall any of the pranks they pulled, I vividly remember the red-faced embarrassment and isolation I felt. A teacher brushed them off as harmless jokes. Dad insisted no one would target me if I didn't show how much they got to me, and Mom tried to convince me I was only singled out because the kids "liked" me. I still may be gullible, but not enough to fall for any of those lines. Mom really let me down. She was as painfully shy and self-conscious as I was but didn't seem to understand my pain. (She clearly didn't know my classmates like I did!)

I never saw the sense of trying to make a fool of someone or laughing at their expense. Even at a young age, I believed it was a cruel betrayal of friendship and trust.

So, whose bad idea was it to establish April Fool's Day? I found a few theories online relating to Greco-Roman celebrations surrounding the Vernal Equinox and the festival of Hilaria (which has a peculiar pagan resurrection theme, by the way), and one theory that dates it to 1582, when France officially switched from the Julian to the Gregorian Calendar, moving New Year's Day to January 1st. As the story goes, not everyone got the word right away, and some who did were not happy with the change, so they continued to celebrate the new year on April 1st and were mocked for it. The hole in that theory is the assumption that April began the year on the Julian calendar, when it was actually the second month.

There are a couple biblical theories about the origin of April Fool's Day, too. As one story goes, Noah became the first "April Fool" when he sent out a dove on April 1st to find dry land before the flood waters had subsided. Another commemorates when Jesus was sent from Pontius Pilate to Herod, and back again, leading to an old expression, "sending a man from Pilate to Herod," which was the definition of a "fool's errand."

This year, April Fool's Day competes with Maundy Thursday -- a day we at St. John's traditionally gather for a meal to commemorate Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples before his arrest, trial, crucifixion, and resurrection. Sadly, this will be the second year in a row that we will not be able to share that time together.

But the darkness that has shrouded the world for the past year is soon to be lifted (at least a little). For the first time in 715 days, we will be able to celebrate Easter together -- in person! There will certainly be differences in the way we worship together to comply with Covid-19 precautions, but the main difference compared to one year ago is that this Easter we will be able to be together. Halleluiah!

News Flash from the Easter Bunny!!

Yes, friends, Fr. Doug has heard from the Easter Bunny about some fun Mr. Bunny has planned for St. John folks. On Easter Sunday (April 4!) right after church, there will be an **Easter Egg Hunt** for children in the congregation of ALL ages. That's right! Whether you are 5 or 95, Mr. Bunny is leaving something special for you -- but not traditional hard-boiled hen eggs.

Mr. Bunny is hoping the weather will be nice so he can hide your goodies outside, but never fear! If it rains like it is said to do sometimes in places like Oregon, he will hide the treasures indoors at the church.

Be sure to listen carefully during church -- not just to the good word that Jesus is risen but also to hear what Mr. Easter Bunny tells Fr. Doug about the Easter Egg hunt. Won't it be fun? Yeah! Yes!!!



April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i> Maundy Thursday	<i>2</i> Good Friday	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i> Easter Sunday Easter Egg Hunt after church	<i>5</i> 7:30 AA	<i>6</i> 8 AA	<i>7</i> 10:30 Rum- mage Sale Comm. 8 AA	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>11</i> 2nd Sun. of Easter	<i>12</i> 5 Good Earth 7:30 AA	<i>13</i> 1 pm BAC 8 AA	<i>14</i> 8 AA	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>18</i> 3rd Sun. of Easter	<i>19</i> 7:30 AA	<i>20</i> 8 AA	<i>21</i> 8 AA	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>25</i> 4th Sun. of Easter	<i>26</i> 7:30 AA	<i>27</i> 8 AA	<i>28</i> 8 AA	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	

Our Prayer List

Rick, Tim, Greg, Matthew, Tom Glunt, Mary S., Marty, 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 all 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 common good; and strengthen those who labor for our health. We ask this through the healer of your creation, Jesus Christ, our health and our salvation. Amen.

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

April Birthdays

4: Donna Flammang

12: Lara Mickle

27: Russell Harrison

28: Sally Glunt

30: Roy Arnoldt



**St. John's
Episcopal Church**

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



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.