

St. John's Journal

July 2021



HEADS UP, FOLKS!

The City of Bandon's 4th of July parade – next Sunday - will start at 10 am and may conflict with getting to or from church. The parade typically begins on 9th St. SW, heads east from the school staging area, turns north on Hwy 101 (which will be closed during the parade!) and then left into Old Town. Watch for detour signs, extra pedestrians wandering around, and maybe allow a few extra minutes to get to church.

Feeding Bandon's Hungry

Feeding God's Sheep

We have received almost no donations in June, but people are still hungry. Your generosity in donating to the Neighborhood Food Pantry continues to help feed the hungry here. We are also grateful for Denise's hard work transporting your gifts to the food pantry.

For now, the collection basket will remain on the kitchen counter.

Fr. Doug's Iconic Column

Since Easter, we have been gathering in person for worship and coffee hour. It has been a wonderful gift to be with each other as we gather in our place to worship God. We have continued to follow the safety protocols set by the State of Oregon and the guidance of our bishop, while also listening to one another's concerns.

This week the Governor has ended mandated restrictions regarding masks and social distancing, etc. The State has nearly reached the 70% vaccination rate among adults. Bandon and the surrounding population have the best vaccination rate in the County, though we have a way to go to get to 70%. In my conversations with parishioners, I have learned that nearly all of us have been vaccinated. Case numbers have dropped in the State and in the County and the Bandon area has the lowest rate of infections in the County. All of this is heartening and raises our hopes that we can return to normal.

On the other hand, there is increased concern about the "Delta" variant of the virus that is apparently more contagious, and the vaccines may not be as effective at stopping it. And then there is the concern that loosening the restrictions may cause the case numbers to go up because there are still people, including children, who are still not vaccinated. And then there is the nature of viruses that they continue to mutate and the reality that, for all our experience with this virus over the last 18 months, we still do not know everything about it.

So, what should we do at St. John?

I called a special meeting of the BAC this week to combine our wisdom and discern what our next step will be. Primary in our consideration is our concern for each other and not just for ourselves. We also recognize the possibility that things could change in the near future, and we would need to change our policies once again. So, we decided to make another step or two toward what is normal for us while waiting a bit to see how things develop around the State and County.



Starting this Sunday, July 4, we will make masks optional and not expect social distancing. We still **STRONGLY** encourage those who have not been fully vaccinated and those who have compromised immune systems to consider wearing a mask. We will continue receiving communion in one kind in the pews and offerings in the offering plate on the table near the front of the sanctuary. We will reinstitute singing at a future date.

To be honest, we all long to have the life of our church, in fact our whole lives, back the way they were. Our approach is one of taking one or two steps at a time until we arrive safely at our destination. We will get there together.

O God,

Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path may not stumble, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BCP p.832

Fr. Doug

"Love God, love our neighbor, and serve one another."

From Our Senior Warden

You're invited to a potluck! This potluck takes place every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the St. John Sanctuary. Rather than food please bring a helping hand. We have 52 potlucks a year and each requires a team of Priest, Lay Eucharist Minister (LEM), Lay Reader 1, Lay Reader 2, Intercessor and Usher. We've got the Priest position covered (thanks Fr. Doug), but not always the other positions.

LEM – This helping hand assists Fr. Doug up near the altar.

Lay Reader 1 – This helping hand stands at the lectern, reads the first lesson and then leads the Psalm.

Lay Reader 2 – This helping hand reads the second lesson, also from the lectern.

Intercessor – This helping hand reads the Prayers of the People, from their own pew. It's a good job for those who don't like to be up front.

Usher – This helping hand greets folks, chooses two people to bring forward the elements, passes the collection plate and is the traffic monitor during Eucharist. (Except during COVID when duties are modified.)

We currently fill these slots from a small pool of folks who graciously serve over and over again. This is mainly an invitation for those who have yet to take on a role. We'd like to deepen this pool of helping hands in order to make our Sunday service a true potluck of cooperation. Please talk with either Fr. Doug, Ginger MacCallum, or me for more information.

Many thanks for your service and commitment!

Judy Jackson

St. John Episcopal Church Rummage Sale!!

START BRINGING YOUR SMALL ITEMS NOW!!!

THE COUNTDOWN TO AUGUST 20 & 21 HAS BEGUN!

Start saving your gently used items you don't need anymore and donate them to our church rummage sale. We can sell kitchen items, sports items, tools, furniture, decor, clothes, etc. All items need to be in good shape, please. Larger items can be stored in the church library after July 1st. Please contact someone from the committee to arrange that.

Tell everyone you can about our rummage sale so we can make this a big fundraiser for St. John's. Sale dates are **Friday, Aug. 20, 8:30-4, and Saturday, Aug. 21, 8:30-2:00.**

Committee members: Jennifer, Lani, Mary, Sally, & Laureia

Bishop's Advisory Committee Notes – June 2021

Here's what took place and was discussed at the June BAC meeting:

- Church Mutual Insurance spoke with Judy to update facility and use information in anticipation of renewing our liability and property insurance coverage.
- RHR Heating has completed routine maintenance on our HVAC units.
- Upcoming facilities projects include rain gutter cleaning and mowing of the empty lot.
 - A tree specialist may be consulted about the leaning Shore Pine on the south side of the sanctuary.
- Rummage sale planning is under way and information will soon be given to parishioners.
- The Coos Kennel Club show at Bandon High School is canceled so our food selling fundraiser is also canceled.
- More Usher, Coffee Hour, Lectors, and Intercessor volunteers are needed.
- Maintaining 6' distance during services in the sanctuary is difficult when there are two or more people in a group.
- Fr. Doug will attend the Celebration of New Ministry of Rev. Patti Hale on June 20 at Emmanuel in Coos Bay. We'll have morning prayer in his absence.
- There will be a convocation-wide Zoom Coffee Hour with Bishop Diana on Sunday, July 11 at Noon.
 - St. Timothy's in Brookings is facing a zoning conflict with the City Council related to their care for the homeless.
- A youth group led by the Rev. Todd Young (formerly of Grants Pass) will visit the Oregon Coast June 30 July 1. Mary Garrett is planning beach/shoreline conservation activities with them. We may create sack lunches for the group.
- Fr. Doug will take vacation from August 2 to the 16th, returning for office hours on the 17th. Morning Prayer will be offered while he's away.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Brad Sinco, Stacy & Roch, Gail, Alex, Michael R., Cece & family, Maggie, David, Mary, Lori & Jay, Ken, Caroline, Charlie, Amy, Bill, Rick, Tim, Greg, Matthew, Tom, Marty, Judy, Jon & Linda, Alberta, Ken & Nikki, Mike & Sandy, Mary, Sabra, Doris, Gisela, Karen & Joe, Myra & Jim, Roy, Juanita, Kelly, James, Sue, Michelle, Mike, Kathy, Mike, Melissa, Brady, Sandy, Kimberly, Zoe, Donna & Kevin, Marilyn, Bill & Steve, the Gaffney family, Deanna, Sheri, Debbie, Bill.

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.

Musings from Denise

INDEPENDENCE AND INTERDEPENDENCE: ALL ONE FAMILY

We are coming up on the Fourth of July, commemorating not only the passage of our nation's Declaration of Independence from Great Britain, but also the freedom this year to gather and celebrate with parades, barbeques, fireworks, and patriotic music. We may not be fully up to speed after a year of dormancy, but I suspect just being able to be together will hold deeper meaning for us. The more we can depend on each other to look out for our mutual best interests the freer and more at ease we will feel in our community and within the greater Church.

The **South Coast Convocation** is one of seven regional groups of churches in our Diocese. It stretches from Florence to Brookings, including **St. Andrew** (Florence); **St. Mary the Virgin** (Gardiner/Reedsport); **Emmanuel** (Coos Bay); **St. John** (Bandon); **St. James** (Coquille); **St. Christopher** (Port Orford); **St. Matthew** (Gold Beach) and **St. Timothy** (Brookings).

Each convocation is led by a dean appointed by the bishop (our dean is Fr. Doug Hale) and a president elected from among the lay delegates (yours truly this year). The clergy and lay delegates meet as a Council at least twice a year, with the last meeting falling within 6 weeks of the convention to study the proposed diocesan budget and any issues or resolutions expected to be heard and voted on at the convention. Your delegates this year are Kay Marino and me. Our alternates are Laurea Arnoldt and Sally Glunt. We will let you know what we have learned and solicit feedback from you before the convention.

In "normal" years convocations also devise opportunities for congregations to gather in different parts of our region (for a picnic or Beach Eucharist or to collaborate on special projects). Something to look forward to in 2022. We held our first meeting of the year last week via Zoom.

If Covid-19 does not rear its ugly head again in the fall, the Diocesan Convention will take place November 4, 5 and 6 in Salem. The Convocation Council hopes to meet next at St. John on September 25. I share this with you for two reasons:

you are welcome to attend the September 25 meeting and witness a layer of church governance that may be unfamiliar but may interest you in becoming more involved; and

it will give St. John's a chance to offer our signature hospitality to these members of our extended church family – and that will require some planning, preparation, and volunteers.

It will be a simple affair, nothing like the one I found mentioned in *The Coos Bay Times* (March 19, 1948) that was held on a Wednesday in Bandon. The meeting opened at 11 a.m. with a celebration of Holy Eucharist, followed by a luncheon in Theresa Hall and an afternoon business meeting that included addresses from three diocesan department heads who had come from Portland. Then a dinner was held at the American Legion Hall, followed by a keynote address from a Portland layman and another business meeting. *Whew!!!* I do not know why the South Coast garnered so much attention from the Diocese that year.

Speaking of extended family, half of our eight congregations are without duly appointed clergy: St. James has been without a priest since the first of the year and is currently in the search process, but St. Mary, St. Christopher and St. Matthew have been relying (continued p.6)

Musings from Denise (continued from page 5)

have been relying on supply clergy for quite a while. We know only too well how difficult that can be, and how blessed we are to have Fr. Doug in our midst. Please keep those congregations in your thoughts and pray that the Holy Spirit may guide to their doors clergy committed to settling on the South Coast and ministering to their needs.

Then there is St. Timothy's (located between a residential neighborhood and a park), which has been serving God and God's people in Brookings since 1946 (five years longer than the City of Brookings has been incorporated). For most of the last 30 or 40 years, St. Timothy's has been a shining model of radical Christian hospitality in its compassionate care for those who are homeless or on low or fixed incomes. The church has a soup kitchen, offers snacks and coffee during office hours and sack lunches on Sundays; it provides free haircuts and showers, clothing, hygiene kits, dignity bags, and laundry service (at a local laundromat). In the past they have offered flu shots and helped underinsured people find medical care. When food programs at other area churches ceased when the pandemic hit, St. Timothy's took up the slack. They regularly serve about 70 homeless individuals.

Now neighbors are objecting, and the city council is considering the imposition of parking, health code and other restrictions that will limit St. Timothy's ability to continue to provide the services that are clearly needed. The argument is that they are not operating as a church, but as a social service agency, and yet it was Jesus who said "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me". [Matthew 25:35-36]

Please pray for St. Timothy's congregation and those they serve, as well as the neighbors and the local officials, that the spirit of wisdom, charity and justice will prevail as they work toward a solution that will benefit all.

--Denise Skillman

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.

BAC

Senior Warden: Judy Jackson

Junior Warden: Sally Glunt

Members at Large: Mary Garrett, Lani Reynolds,
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 illness. The administrator is working alone in the office and is maintaining necessary social distancing through this pandemic.

JULY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

9: Tom Glunt

Anniversaries

2: Laurea & Roy Arnoldt

16: Harmony & Russell Harrison

31: Myra & Jim Lawson



July 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2	3 9:30-11:30 SEA
4 6th Sun of Pentecost HE II	5 7:30 AA	6 8:00 AA	7	8	9	10
11 7th Sun of Pentecost HE II	12 7:30 AA	13 1 BAC 8:00 AA	14	15 4-6 SEA	16	17
18 8th Sun of Pentecost HE II	19 7:30 AA	20 8:00 AA	21	22	23	24
25 9th Sun of Pentecost HE II	26 7:30 AA	27 8:00 AA	28	29	30	31

Lay Ministry Schedule July 2021

Date	LEM	First Lector	Second Lector	Intercessor	Greeter
7/4 6 th Sun. of Pentecost HE II	Kay	Denise	Myra	Ginger	Ginger
7/11 7 th Sun. of Pentecost HE II	Denise	Maggie	Maggie	Mary	Ginger
7/18 8 th Sun. of Pentecost HE II	Mary	Kay	Laurea	Laurea	Judy
7/25 9 th Sun. of Pentecost HE II	Denise	Ginger	Ginger	Laurea	Lani

July Lectionary

July 4: Ezekiel 2:1-5; Psalm 123; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13.

July 11: Amos 7:7-15; Psalm 85:8-13; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29.

July 18: Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 23; Ephesians 2: 11-22; Mark 8:30-34, 53-56.

July 25: 2 Kings 4:42-44; Psalm 145:10-19; Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21.

S t . J o h n ' s E p i s c o p a l C h u r c h

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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.