

St. John's Journal

September 2021



Lay Ministry Opportunities

Have you ever considered becoming part of the lay ministry at St. John?

Before you run away screaming, "No! Leave me alone," let's talk about it for a minute. Lay Ministry is an old tradition in the Church. In addition, these roles are acts of worship.

Our priest, Father Doug, is in the process of developing customaries – "how to" guidance for the different aspects of lay ministry.

Because of Covid-19 restrictions on gatherings and close contact, at present we are having Morning Prayer II with only four people in church: Father Doug, a LEM/lay minister, a lector, and our music director, Cynthia Mohorko. This is a richly satisfying liturgy that reflects our roots in Jesus's own religion.

The service is livestreamed over YouTube and is also available through Facebook at this link: <https://www.facebook.com/St-John-Episcopal-Church-in-Bandon-Oregon-234749653862372>

If you are interested in knowing more about this richly satisfying aspect of worship, please contact Father Doug by email at this address: buckdeaver55@gmail.com

Fr. Doug's Iconic Column

I recently had a conversation with a fellow Episcopalian who, aware that hospitals around the country are finding their limited resources stretched to the max and some operations being postponed due to lack of bed space, commented that those who have not been vaccinated should have a lower priority for care. But then she said an amazing thing. She realized that this attitude is not the one she should have as a follower of Christ. She acknowledged that we need to care for all people, irrespective of what they have done or not done. The love of neighbor that God calls us to includes those who frustrate and anger us.

I responded to her that this is what many of us, including myself, face at this time. We react with less than charitable thoughts toward what other people are choosing to do. Then we can realize that as much as we spontaneously react in this way, we are called to follow Christ, who leads us in the way of love and grace. We see our vindictive thoughts and then the Spirit of God reminds us of the way of Christ.

I began Morning Prayer this morning with this Opening Sentence:

"Thus says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy,
 'I dwell in the high and holy place
 And also with the one who has a contrite and humble spirit,
 To revive the spirit of the humble and to revive the heart of the contrite.'"

Isaiah 57:15

I was glad to read this for it reminded me that we are less than perfect in our thoughts. But even more, it is a reminder that the Spirit of God is at work in us when we realize that our thoughts (and maybe our spoken words) fall short of the holy love that God would wish us to express. The Spirit is at work within us when we recognize our dark thoughts and realize our thoughts and words and actions should exhibit a much more gracious attitude. God is at work within us to revive our hearts.

The Isaiah text was followed by this hymn:

Awake, awake: fling off the night! For God has sent a glorious light;
 And we who live in Christ's new day must works of darkness put away.
 Let in the light; all sin expose to Christ, whose life no darkness knows.
 Before the cross expectant kneel; and Christ may judge and judging, heal.
 Awake, and rise up from the dead, and Christ his light on you will shed.
 Its power will wrong desire destroy, and your whole nature fill with joy.
 Then sing for joy, and use each day; give thanks for everything always.
 Lift up your hearts; with one accord praise God through Jesus Christ our Lord.



By J. R. Peacey

(Continued on page 3)

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

Fr. Doug's Iconic Column (continued from page 2)

In these difficult times, it is easy to go to the dark side. But I pray that the Spirit will prod us to think again of what it is that Christ has called us to. We are not perfect. We are works in progress. Fortunately for us, the Spirit of God does not shy away from us when our thought and words and actions turn way from the way of Christ. Rather the Spirit comes even closer to show us mercy and forgiveness and to provide the light and strength to turn again to the way of Christ.

Fr. Doug

WORSHIP IN THE TIME OF COVID

For the time being, we have returned to virtual worship. The skyrocketing numbers of positive cases of COVID in Coos County and across our state and nation worries us. And then one of our own members tested positive and we heard it as a wake-up call. (Fortunately, no one else at church tested positive as a result and Jennifer is now put the worst of her symptoms behind her.) So we have discontinued in-person worship for the time being, but we continue to have worship on Youtube and Facebook. On September 14, the BAC will take stalk of where we are and whether to continue for a time without in-person worship.

Bishop's Advisory Committee Notes – August 2021

Here's what took place at the August BAC meeting.

We Reviewed:

The current Profit and Loss report and balance sheet.

A welcome brochure from St. Matthias in Whittier, CA. Can we generate one for St. John?

We Discussed:

Kay Marino's retirement as Treasurer. We are still seeking her replacement.

Our banking investment fund and whether to change it.

Church office security concerns.

The upcoming Stewardship season.

We Decided:

To contribute \$200 to the Diocese's Commission on Poor and Homeless - this year's designee for the Pentecost Offering. These dollars will be taken from the operating fund's outreach budget.

To postpone the rummage sale and return – for the time being – to online, streaming worship service.

This was decided out of concern for COVID's Delta variant spike.

From the Senior Warden

At the recent BAC meeting we decided to postpone the rummage sale and temporarily move back to online, streaming worship.

This difficult decision was made after a long, arduous discussion that went on for the majority of the meeting. We wondered if we could hold the sale but cancel Sunday's service – probably not, that'd be hypocritical. We considered many options: What if this, what if that, how about if we...?

For me the harder decision was the rummage sale. I'd watched Lani and her team (Sally, Laureia & Mary) spend countless hours sorting, prepping and pricing. Theresa Hall was ringed by boxes full of your donations, as was our library. The word was out and we were ready! So much heart, soul and effort had gone into this fundraiser that thinking about postponing it was tough. If we did hold it now, would anyone even come for fear of COVID exposure? If we postpone until the fall, it might be raining. Could we store the stuff until next spring – and where? I was so frustrated that this carefully planned event was sidelined by the endlessly, endless pandemic.

But, here's the upshot. Because of our BAC discussion and collective reasoning, a view of the bigger picture became clear. The health and safety of our congregation and community is the number one, tip-top priority. Fundraising is vitally important to the life of our parish, but larger than that is our obligation to take care of each other.

Lani and the rummage gals present at the meeting graciously – and without resentment – agreed with the decision. I think we all accept that the refrain of our current days is "*what is, is what it is*".

Postscript: The sale team moved all of the goods back into the library – and it all miraculously fit. Well done! The rummage sale **will** happen and **will** be amazing, so stay tuned.

Judy Jackson

Prayer List

Jim & Marci, Kehau, Marilyn C., Grant, Rick, Kay Mosby, Brad Sinko, 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.

Musings from Denise

MARKING THE PASSAGE OF TIME WITH THE SAINTS

Here we are again, unable to gather for worship due to a pestilence of biblical proportion that just keeps spreading. Over the past 18 months, many of us have deep cleaned our houses, donated items we no longer use or need, fixed/added whatever household features needed to be fixed or added, spruced up the yard and got caught up on our reading. Now what?

As children trundle back to school and leaves begin to fall, it's easy to mark a change of seasons in September, whether we follow the meteorological Fall beginning September 1st or the astronomical calendar that marks the Autumnal Equinox (September 22 this year) as the beginning of Fall. On the church calendar, September continues the Season after Pentecost (Year B, Propers 18-21, beginning on page 909 in the Book of Common Prayer). The month also features one national holiday (Labor Day, celebrated on the 6th this year), and two somber commemorations to fill our thoughts and guide our prayers this month. This year marks the 85th anniversary of the Bandon Fire (September 26, 1936) and the 20th anniversary of 9-11. Trinity Church Wall Street will stream special services from September 10-12 on their website, www.trinitywallstreet.org/september-11 and on Facebook.

The Episcopal Church recalls the lives of men and women throughout the centuries whose faith in God and love for humanity led them to take risks and overcome societal obstacles in ways that brought others closer to God. There are commemorations for exemplars of the faith for nearly every weekday in September – even some from the 20th Century. I have no doubt that others from the first quarter of this century will be added to that number someday. As we recite the Apostles' Creed and affirm our belief in the "communion of saints," these are among the people who should come to mind. No matter how long ago they lived, many of the challenges they faced are issues the world is still wrestling with: overcoming ignorance, racism, poverty, slavery, stereotypical gender roles and gender identity; aiding refugees and battling outbreaks of diseases.

In "Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2018," you can find short biographies, selected biblical texts and a collect for the day online at: <https://extranet.generalconvention.org/staff/files/download/21034>. Here are highlights of the lives of just a few lesser-known men and women to remember in September:

SEPTEMBER 5: Katharina Zell, Church Reformer and Writer, 1562. Born in 1497, Katharina was one of the first Protestant women to marry clergy (very controversial at the time, and still an issue for Roman Catholics). She laid out a Biblical defense of the marriage of priests in a letter to her bishop and in pamphlets published for the laity. Throughout her life she welcomed refugees into her home and visited those sick with plague, syphilis, and other feared diseases. She gave refuge to John Calvin, corresponded with, and met Martin Luther, and published Scriptural commentaries.

SEPTEMBER 9: The Martyrs of Memphis: Constance, Thecla, Ruth, Frances, Charles Parsons, and Louis Schuyler. In August 1878, yellow fever struck Memphis, Tennessee, for the third time in ten years. By month's end, the disease had become epidemic, and a quarantine was ordered. (continued on page 6)

Musings from Denise (Continued from page 5)

While more than 25,000 citizens fled in terror, nearly 20,000 remained. The death toll averaged 200 people per day. When the worst was over, 90% of the people who remained had contracted the fever and more than 25% had died. Many brave men and women, both lay and ordained, remained at their duty posts or came as volunteers to assist despite the terrible risk. Notable among them were four Episcopal nuns and two of their clergy colleagues, all of whom died while tending to the sick. They have ever since been known as "The Martyrs of Memphis." ***(As we remember them on September 9th let's also remember the heroes of our own day who continue to risk their lives to fight the Covid-19 pandemic.)***

SEPTEMBER 10: Alexander Crummell, Priest, 1898. Born March 3, 1819, in New York City, Alexander Crummell struggled against racism all his life. As a young man of color, he struggled with educational institutions which barred him from admittance. Ordained a priest in 1844 in the Diocese of Massachusetts but excluded from diocesan convention, he left for England. After receiving a degree from Cambridge University, he went as a missionary to Liberia, where a model Christian republic seemed possible. He urged African Americans to emigrate to Liberia and to support the work of the Episcopal Church there, but eventually returned to the United States, where he concentrated on establishing a strong urban presence of independent black congregations that would be centers of worship, education, and social service. He died in Red Bank, New Jersey, in 1898.

SEPTEMBER 15: Catherine of Genoa, Mystic and Nurse, 1510 is remembered both for nursing the sick during repeated plagues, and for writing about her mystical experiences. At the age of 16, Catherine was married to Giuliano Adorno to end a feud between their two families. The first 10 years of their marriage were miserable. Giuliano was angry, unfaithful, and a spendthrift. Catherine was deeply depressed until she had a sudden mystical experience and determined to combine a contemplative life with an active dedication to caring for the sick in the local hospital. In time, her husband joined her in this work, and they became increasingly close to one another through their shared labor for those in need. Catherine died on September 15, 1510, while nursing the sick. ***(A day to remember the doctors and nurses who have died treating Covid patients in the past 18 months.)***

SEPTEMBER 17: Hildegard of Bingen, Abbess, Mystic, Poet, Composer, Dramatist, Doctor and Scientist, 1179, is much better known to us than some of the others listed here, partly because Rev. Mum often quoted her. Hildegard was born in 1098 on the west bank of the Rhine River and as her parents' tenth child, she was tithed to the church and raised by an anchoress (Jutta) near a Benedictine monastery. They organized a convent with Jutta as the first abbess, succeeded by Hildegard (at age 38). Hildegard founded two other convents (in 1150 and 1165). Her writings about her spiritual visions were filled with feminine imagery for God and God's act of creation and she quickly became famous. Monarchs, abbots and abbesses, archbishops, and popes sought her counsel. She carried out four preaching missions in northern Europe (an unprecedented activity for a woman). She practiced medicine (focusing on women's needs); published treatises on natural science and philosophy; and wrote the earliest known morality play ("*Ordo Virtutum*"), in which personified virtues sing their parts and the devil (condemned to live without music) can only speak. For Hildegard, music was essential to worship. Her liturgical compositions were unusual in structure and tonality, which contemporaries described as "chant of surpassing sweet melody" and "strange and unheard-of music." Hildegard died in 1179 at age 81.

(Continued on page 7)

Musings from Denise (continued from page 6)

SEPTEMBER 24: Anna Ellison Butler Alexander, Deaconess and Teacher, 1947. Born on a Georgia plantation to recently emancipated slaves in 1865, Anna was the youngest of 11 children. She was consecrated as a deaconess in the Episcopal Church in 1907. Dedicated to teaching African American children in poor communities, she also became the agent for government and private aid during the Great Depression – respected by and serving the needs of both races in a segregated south.

SEPTEMBER 27: Euphrosyne/Smaragdus of Alexandria, Monastic, fifth century. Euphrosyne was born in 414 in Alexandria, Egypt. She fled home to avoid an arranged marriage. Disguising herself as a man, she adopted the name Smaragdus, entered a monastery, and lived for 38 years as an ascetic. Bereaved by the daughter he had lost and presumed was dead, Paphnutius sought consolation at the same monastery and was sent to Smaragdus for spiritual direction and guidance. He came weekly for Smaragdus' wisdom and advice. It was not until Smaragdus was dying that Paphnutius finally recognized that the beloved daughter he had mourned as dead and the monk who had guided him through his grief were in fact the same person. He nursed Smaragdus lovingly during his final illness, and then became a monk himself, occupying the same cell that his child had lived in for the rest of his life.

SEPTEMBER 28: Paula and Eustochium of Rome, Monastics and Scholars, 404 and c.419. Paula (b. 347) was a Roman aristocrat who married young, had 5 children, and was widowed at age 32. She converted her palace into a convent and devoted her life to the worship of God, rigorous asceticism, and service to the needy. Paula met Jerome when he came to Rome in 382. She and her daughter Eustochium (b. 386) joined Jerome when he returned to the Holy Land. Paula had four convents built in Bethlehem, one for Jerome and other monks and three for nuns. Paula and Eustochium were fluent in Latin and Greek and learned Hebrew from Jerome. They were instrumental in editing and distributing Jerome's Commentaries and Latin translation of the Bible (the Vulgate version).

SEPTEMBER 30: Jerome, Priest and Scholar, 420. Eusebius Sophronius Hieronymus, better known to us as Jerome, was born around 347 in the Roman province of Dalmatia (now Croatia). While a student in Rome, he was converted and baptized. In 378, he was ordained a priest at Antioch, where he continued studies in Hebrew and Greek, then transferred to Constantinople and then to Rome, where he became the Pope's secretary. In 382 Pope Damasus I commissioned Jerome to produce a new translation of the Bible into the vulgus tongue used by the common people (hence, the term "Vulgate"). Between 382 and 405, Jerome labored on this translation, working in Rome until the Pope's death in 384 and then in Bethlehem. Jerome's translation was based on original Hebrew and Greek writings, rather than later Latin translations. In Bethlehem, Jerome lived an ascetic life and wrote commentaries on the Scriptures until his death on September 30, 420.

*"For all the saints, who from their labors rest, who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy Name, O Jesus, be forever blessed. Alleluia, alleluia." (Hymn 287)*



Our rummage sale is on hold, temporarily postponed until Covid-19 is not raging. Our own Lani is the mastermind responsible for the orderly saving and storage of the sale goods. Well done, Lani and your other angels!

Our Prayer List

Jim & Marci, Kehau, Marilyn C., Grant, Rick, Kay Mosby, Brad Sinko, 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.

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.

SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

1: Helen Slack-Miller

6: Kay Marino

22: Bob Graville



Please observe Oregon's masking guidelines. Remember: your mask should cover both your mouth and your nose to protect yourself & others.. Stay safe!

September 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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

SAVE THE DATE!

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BASKETS OF PLENTY



The annual Basket Raffle at the Diocesan Convention, to support the Commission on Poverty and Homelessness, has morphed into a Zoom auction.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2021

5:00 PM



Convener, Pamela Lyons-Nelson
Email: 3plnelson@gmail.com
Phone: (503) 269-4756

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.

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.