

St. John's Journal

December 2021



*In Celebration of the Nativity
Of
Our Lord Jesus Christ*

**Our Christmas service this year
will be**

**At 4:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve,
December 24, 2021**

In the church.

**To ensure social distancing, we
will limit the number who may
attend in person to those with
reservations. Please contact the
church either by email or by
phone: Phone: 541-347-2152;
email:
stjohns.bandon@gmail.com**

Fr. Doug's Iconic Column

We have entered the Season of Advent. It is a time of hope and expectation. We usually want everything to be upbeat, positive and festive in anticipation of Christmas. We look forward to gatherings with family and friends. We enjoy displays of lights and the shift into Christmas music. At church we look forward to special decorations and Christmas hymns.

Last year we were disappointed in many ways as we had to deal with a resurgence of the COVID virus. We were unable to gather in-person at all. This year we are attempting and hoping to maintain a level of in-person gathering that will allow us to be together from now through Christmas and into the New Year. It will not be a "return to normal," but we will bring back as much as we can safely.

In some ways, this is a great illustration of what Advent and Christmas Seasons try to communicate to us. We are in the darkest season of the year, we are having to deal with a life-threatening virus, we are living in a time with a great deal of division in our nation and the world. And yet in the midst of all that, we are called upon to have hope that God hears our cries and has come near to us. Little lights in the darkness remind us to look for even the littlest of signs that the Spirit of God is with us. The arrival of a little child wrapped in cloth lying in a manger is a reminder that God can come to us wrapped in small packages found in unusual places, not just under a Christmas tree.

Like the wise men, we may need to travel to unusual places, to step out of our comfort zones to find where God is at work. It may be that we become bearers of God's gifts of love to others in ways that we have never done before, touching the lives of people we have never shared with before.

We need to keep our eyes open for the little signs of God's love, and listen for the sounds of God speaking in a still small voice. We need to not simply long for the "return to normal." Instead, we need to be open to whatever opportunities come our way. The Kingdom of God has drawn near. We don't want to miss it.

Fr. Doug



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

Bishop's Advisory Committee Notes – November 2021

Here's what took place at the November BAC meeting

We Reviewed

The current the Profit and Loss report and balance sheet.

We Discussed

The stewardship campaign responses received to date - both pledge and time and talent forms.
The bid submitted by Reese Electric for three possible phases of Sanctuary lighting improvements.
High water usage as seen on our water bill and the possible source of the problem and its repair.
The repair of the doorway threshold between Theresa Hall and the hallway to the sanctuary.
The Advent and Christmas season and the planning of events, services and decorations.

We Decided

To mail Christmas cards to our members and friends.
To resume in-person worship on the Feast of Christ the King/Dedication Sunday (November 21st).
To offer overflow seating elsewhere in the building should the number of Sunday guests prevent social distanced seating.

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We Voted

To appoint Kathy Webb as the church's bank depositor.

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.

Diocesan Leadership Election Results

Nearly 300 delegates attended the 133rd Convention of the Diocese of Oregon on November 6th via Zoom. Ten leadership positions were open on various boards. Three were awarded to Episcopalians from our South Coast Convocation.

Standing Committee: After 4 years as Lay representative, our own Laurea Arnoldt retired. Elected: Juanita Weber - St. David of Wales, Portland)
The Rev. Gavin Shumate - St. John, Toledo.

Board of Trustee:

Sally Jaeggli - Emmanuel, Coos Bay
The Rev. Bernie Lindley - St. Timothy, Brookings.

Trinity Cathedral Chapter: Catherine "Katie" Thomas - St. Mary, Eugene.

Diocesan Council:

Nancylee Stewart – Emmanuel (elected on the first ballot)
Matt Irvin - St. Matthew, Eugene (elected on the fourth ballot)
The Rev. Allan Miles - St. Martin, Shady Cove
The Rev. Sara Cosca-Warfield - St. Luke the Physician, Gresham.

Diocesan Council - Clergy Replacement for Anne Abdy (who left our Diocese):
The Rev. Roberto Maldonado - Santa Cruz/Holy Cross, Gresham.

In her address to Convention, the Rt. Rev. Diana Akiyama put the pandemic's impact on the Church and our sense of what is normal in perspective by referring to "The Wisdom Pattern" by Richard Rohr, which describes a natural and biblical cycle of Order à Disorder à and Reorder. Although we are still in a state of disorder as we consider how our faith calls us to serve those in need, respect people of other races and cultures, and address issues such as climate change, we can look forward to the next stage: Reorder.

The bishop's vision for the reordered stage to come includes:

- Splitting the diocesan administration into two offices (North and South) to fully embrace our geographic diversity.
- Financial transparency and accountability (which delegates were delighted to see in the 2022 Budget).
- More intentional work in Creation Care, Stewardship and Fundraising.

In other business, the delegates:

- Adopted a resolution "Affirming Gender-Diverse and Trans Identities" that will create a task force to produce guidelines for voluntarily assessing current practices and to develop a plan to improve signage, formation activities and communications online and in print.
- Authorized the dissolution (closure) of two churches: St. David's in Drain and Christ the King on the Santiam (Stayton).
- Reviewed (line by line) and adopted a \$2,179,343 Diocesan Budget for 2022.
- Watched a video about **Plaza Encuentro**, a joint effort of our diocese and the Mexican consulate to raise awareness of the need for both children's and adults' literacy.

(Continued on the next page)

Diocesan Leadership Election Results

- Discussed the ongoing conflict between St. Timothy's, the church's residential neighbors, and the Brookings City Council regarding that church's long-term mission to feed the hungry and provide vaccinations. The Bishop and Chancellor have already sent letters to the City Council in support of St. Timothy's ministry. Other churches were invited to send food, money and/or letters in support of St. Timothy's program. Bishop Akiyama encouraged people to subscribe to the Diocesan Digest (a weekly email) to keep abreast of this and other news. (*Contact Alli Gannett, Director of Communications, to subscribe. Her email is: allisong@diocese-oregon.org.*)
- Honored Canon Neysa Ellgren-Sheppley for 11 years of service to the Diocese as Canon to the Ordinary. She is retiring at the end of this year.

Personal Observation: I have served as a convention delegate for St. John's several times over nearly 40 years here, and I have fond memories of getting to know people throughout the diocese and learning about their various ministries at in-person conventions lasting two to three days. But I have also come to appreciate the cost-effectiveness and efficient dispatch of business of an online convention condensed to five hours. It means more people have an opportunity to "attend" via Zoom and participate as delegates without the hardships of travel. I encourage you to volunteer in 2022.

–Denise Skillman, Delegate

BAC

Senior Warden: Judy Jackson

Junior Warden: Sally Glunt

Members at Large: Mary Garrett, Lani Reynolds, Maggie Lowery

Treasurer: Denise Skillman

Clerk:

Bankers: Kathy Webb

Convention Delegates

Kay Marino & Denise Skillman

Alternates: Laurea Arnoldt & Sally Glunt

Thank You Kay Marino

The role of church treasurer is perhaps the most demanding volunteer job at St. John's. It takes knowledge, QuickBooks savy, and timely attention to a million detail\$. It's a job that only the few and the brave take on.

As Treasurer, Kay Marino has monitored our funds and recorded incoming and outgoing dollars for many years. She's given generously of her time and talent for many years, and kept us on financial track through thick and thin. As of November 1st, she has at long last retired from this position.

Kay, I hope you realize how much we appreciate your efforts. The rest of us struggle to understand the subject that you've bravely taken on and mastered. (Note: I'm sorry if during your financial reporting to the BAC my eyes have ever glazed over.)

For all of the data entering, bill paying, tabulating, budgeting, reconciling, asset tracking AND for your integrity - we say **thank you**. Here's the true bottom line; your service to St. John's has been a godsend. Here's hoping that you may never have to generate a profit and loss report again!

Judy Jackson

Sr. Warden

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4: Jennifer Mello

12: Judy Jackson

21: Lani Reynolds

Eddie Miller

22: Jim Lawson

23: Doug Hale



December 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 7 Evening Prayer 8 AA	2	3	4
5 Advent 2 HE II	6 7:30 AA	7 8 AA	8 7 Evening Prayer 8 AA	9	10	11
12 Advent 3 HE II	13 7:30 AA	14 1 BAC 8 AA	15 7 Evening Prayer 8 AA	16	17	18
19 Advent 4 HE II	20 7:30 AA	21 8 AA	22 7 Festival of Advent Lessons 8 AA	23	24 4 Christmas Eve HE II	25
26 1st Sun after Christmas HE II	27 7:30 AA	28 8 AA	29 7 Evening Prayer 8 AA	30	31	

Wednesday Evening Prayer

Fr. Doug is leading Evening Prayer at 7pm on Wednesdays using the Zoom platform at this link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5042346656?pwd=eGlTMEthTnUyQWk3TW9hNm5zemRsQT09> The same link can be used each week. The link to the gathering can also be found in his weekly Saturday evening emails. The same link can be used each week. Join and be blessed by this time of prayer and interaction with other folks from St. John.

On Wednesday, Dec. 22, Fr. Doug's service will be a Festival of Advent Lessons.

Our Prayer List

Judy Mohorko, Alice Hunt, Jaime Sterling, Marin Sterling, Tegan Sterling, Kinsey, Chris Cummings, Patricia, Bryani, The Miller family, Robin Haruna, Grant, Brad Sinko, Cece & family, David, Lori & Jay, Charlie, Amy, Bill, Jesse, Rick, Tom, Marty, Judy, Jon & Linda, Alberta, Mary, 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, Deanna, Sheri, Debbie.

"Feed my sheep"

These words Jesus said to Peter remind us that we, too, as followers of Jesus, are enjoined to feed His sheep. Although Covid-19 has altered the world and our social interactions, many are suffering from hunger. If you can, if you are able, please bring your donation of unopened non-perishable food to the church so it can be taken to the ecumenical Neighborhood Food Pantry. The basket is on the kitchen counter.

St. John's Episcopal Church

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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.