

St. John's Journal

March 2022

Fr. Doug's Iconic Column

As we flip the page from February to March, it seems like we are flipping the page into a new time.

For one thing, March 2nd is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the season of Lent. (We will be having an Ash Wednesday service at Noon. The service will also be offered online on our YouTube channel and on our Facebook page.) Once we have turned that page and seen Ash Wednesday, we already have our eyes on Holy Week and Easter, which is April 10 through 17. This is an exciting time because we have not been able to celebrate this most important time of the Church Year physically together for two years. But this year we will!

For the Season of Lent, the Episcopal Church has provided a variety of resources. Amongst those resources are devotional guides for the season and other educational opportunities. These resources can be found at:

https://www.episcopalchurch.org/lent-resources/?mc_cid=1f37d9ba36&mc_eid=fe26ada280

I encourage you to use one of these resources to invite God to take you on a deeper journey of reflection about yourself and the world. Consider using one of these resources to deepen your experience of God in these 40 days of Lent.

At the bottom of the first page of this new time on March 27th, we are excited to have our Bishop, Diana Akiyama, come to be with us for the first time. This day will be special in part because of her presence among us. It will also be special because she will be leading our Celebration of New Ministry where I will be installed as your Vicar rather than as Priest-in-Charge. The significance of this is that I and the congregation are entering into a more permanent relationship. It will also be special because the Bishop will be confirming Jennifer Mello in the Episcopal Church. This day will be different because it will not seem like it is part of Lent. It indeed will be a celebration.

There is another way that the page is being flipped. We are flipping into a new state of the COVID pandemic. The future is unclear but there are signs of hope that with people vaccinated and the virus mutating into something that is less harmful, we will be able to return to "normal," or something resembling it. The Oregon mask mandate for indoor public places will come to an end on March 19th. At that time masks will no longer be required. At the same time,

"State officials highly recommend that people in high-risk groups continue to wear masks in indoor public settings even after the restrictions are lifted. They include people who are at higher risk because they are unvaccinated; immunocompromised; have underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of complications; are 65 or older; or who live with someone in one of those categories."

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Fr. Doug's Iconic Column (continued)

This statement is sobering because it describes most of us. We are put into a place where we are not being told what to do but being asked to thoughtfully consider the implications of our own actions for ourselves and others. We may feel a sense of freedom. But we also might be experiencing more insecurity. Maybe the most important thing we need to ask ourselves is, what does loving my neighbor require of me?

Maybe these two seasons, LENT and COVID, ask the same thing of us. These words from the service for Ash Wednesday seem to fit both:

“I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.”

May we all experience the prompting and support of the Holy Spirit as we flip the page.

Fr. Doug

**Bishop's Advisory Committee Notes – February 2022**

Here's what took place at the February BAC meeting

We Reviewed

January's financial report

A new welcome brochure to be shared with Sunday visitors

Upkeep tasks completed: landscape clean up, replacement of slip-proof treading on deck and stairs

Thoughts for 2022 as shared by attendees at the Annual Meeting

We Discussed

How to replace Church's the anti-virus computer protection software

How to recruit people to help with worship and how to recruit a Clerk for the BAC

The annual Parochial Report that is sent to the Diocese

How and when to amend our COVID policies

A new Covenant of Ministry between Fr. Doug and St. John's (i.e. his contract)

A gift for Bishop Diana when she visits St. John's on Sunday, March 27th

We Decided

To initiate a newsletter feature that shares how individuals in our congregation serve the wider Bandon community.

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

Bandon Feeds the Hungry

Since the pandemic has changed our lives so dramatically, we seem to have lost the habit of contributing to the ecumenical food pantry. The hungry and the homeless are still here and in need.

If you are able, please contribute what you can in non-perishable food. Other things that food stamps do not buy are non-food items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, soap (laundry, bath, dishwashing). Women's sanitary products are also necessities. Many of these non-food needs are available at the area dollar stores.

At present, the collection basket is on the counter in the kitchen. When we move back into fewer restrictions as the pandemic eases, we will doubtless move the collection basket back into the narthex where it was before. Meanwhile, anything you can contribute is a priceless gift.

If this outreach is news to you because you are new to the area, it is an ecumenical endeavor in which many of Bandon's churches participate. The food pantry itself is located in the park on West 11th Street, near the Barn.

The pantry also benefits from seasonal overruns at Cranberry Sweets. We are the contact for that lovely store and typically get a call right after major holidays for which they make special candy. Cranberry Sweets gets no publicity out of their giving these fresh products to the pantry, but we know, and we tell! What a treat for those who receive food at the pantry!

Let's do what we can to feed God's sheep, His children.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

12: Wailani Reep

20: Laurea Arnoldt

22: Robin Hanna

27: Mike Fitzgerald

Anniversaries

17: Sally & Tom Glunt

29: Gail Pray & Stephan Beauton



Prayer List News

Fr. Doug has asked for revision of our prayer list request form, so here is your alert on what will be different. It will offer you an optional opportunity (**not a requirement**) to enter the reason for which prayer is needed. There is no intent or desire to violate privacy! Rather, it will allow us to pray intentionally regarding specific types of illness, for travelers, for those who are alone, and so on. In addition, the names of those who are ill will be referred as well to the prayer chain for directed prayer.

March 2022

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

| | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------------|---|----|----|----|
| | | 1 | 2 Noon Ash Wednesday Svc; 7 Evening Prayer 8 AA | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 1st Sun. of Lent HE | 7 7:30 AA | 8 1 BAC 8 AA | 9 7 Evening Prayer 8 AA7 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 2nd Sun. of Lent HE | 14 7:30 AA | 15 8 AA | 16 7 Evening Prayer 8 AA | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 3rd Sun. of Lent HE | 21 7:30 AA | 22 8 AA | 23 7 Evening Prayer 8 AA | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 4th Sun of Lent /Visit from Bishop Diana/ Confirmation/ Fr Doug Vicar! | 28 7:30 AA | 29 8 AA | 30 7 Evening Prayer 8 AA | 31 | | |

*Musings from Denise***Budding Authors from Boise to Bolton**

Last month, the BBC reported that eight-year-old Dillon Helbig of Boise, Idaho, snuck his 81-page handwritten and illustrated book onto a bookshelf at his local library. When the librarians discovered it, they decided to officially add it to their collection because it met all their criteria. At last report there were fifty-six people on the library's waiting list to read *The Adventures of Dillon Helbig's Crismis*.

The novella was written and illustrated in a journal in just four days over the winter break. (That's over twenty pages a day! Mark Twain wrote four to six pages a day; Hemmingway's goal was five hundred words per day—about the length of this article.)

It describes how Dillon was decorating his Christmas tree when it exploded, and he was magically transported back to the year 1621. (His mother helped him fact-check the first year Thanksgiving was celebrated in the U.S.) Shortly after finishing the book, he went to the library with his grandmother and placed his one and only manuscript on a bookshelf when no one was looking.

He is already planning a second book “based on actual events” that he has decided to call *The Jacket-Eating Closet*.

Across “the Pond,” another eight-year-old boy in Bolton (part of Greater Manchester in northwest England) was praised by the Duchess of Cornwall for completing a year-long 50-book reading challenge in just three months during the first Covid lockdown. (It would take me much longer to read that many!)

After reading all those books, Milan Kumar was inspired to write one. His self-published *Covid Christmas Parade* is about a young boy spreading festive cheer during the pandemic. Proceeds are going to Britain's National Literacy Trust. As of December 31st, Milan had raised £3,000, garnering recognition from Prime Minister Boris Johnson and a Points of Light award (given to outstanding volunteers making a change in their community).

According to a BBC report, Milan said, “I love reading and learning about the world through books and I want to help as many children as possible discover the magic of reading and all the great benefits it comes with.”

Eight years old! I can't recall anything I did at that age that was half as ambitious. I do remember reading a lot back then; my family made weekly trips to the library. And I'm glad that St. John's has been able to provide financial support for the past couple of years for Oceancrest Elementary School's scholastic book program. It enables teachers to select and purchase books for students to take home and build their own libraries. Maybe Bandon will one day produce an eight-year-old author who gains international renown – and we'll have played a role in the author's success.



How We Serve One Another

At St. John's we aim to Love God, love our neighbor and serve one another. As a church community we run outreach programs like the Medical Loan Closet. But individuals in our congregation also get out in our community, to serve on their own. This is the first in a series introducing individuals who give of their time and talent beyond St. John's.

Mary Garrett – In her words

I first joined SEA (Shoreline Education for Awareness) to learn about the place where I live. I knew nothing about the ocean, marine wildlife, birds, or local culture so I really wanted to enhance my knowledge. I attended seminars ranging from whales, pinnipeds, invertebrates, geology and Native American culture, all offered through SEA.

I quickly learned that SEA's mission is not only to educate, but also to support local conservation efforts. This was right up my alley.

On Accomplishment

The more I learned, the more I wanted to share with others. This small town of Bandon is an amazing place, enriched with natural wonders and unbelievable opportunities to learn and grow. I completed the OSU Master Naturalist program a few years ago and as such, am required to complete at least forty hours of volunteer work, and eight hours of continuing education per year. So accomplishment means two things for me: I have greatly improved my own awareness and understanding through ongoing learning, and I am able to pass this on to others.

One very big and recent accomplishment for SEA is that our proposal for a Marine Garden designation at Coquille Point is approved. A Marine Garden will allow more site stewardship through volunteer opportunities, more protection for wildlife and fragile nesting areas, and ensure that tourists will learn and respect the natural treasures we have here. This is a huge achievement of which I'm proud. (Learn more at sea-edu.org)

Why I volunteer

I volunteer to keep active, stimulate my brain by continuing to learn, and to help others. This opportunity not only helps other people learn, but I believe my involvement (in a small way) has a positive impact on the environment and wildlife. I have been a SEA volunteer for nine years, on the board for seven years and president for three years. It's an honor to be involved with such a worthy cause and dynamic group of people.

Observing wildlife is always exciting and many times the unexpected will happen. Watching the bird colonies, identifying tufted puffins and peregrine falcons on Face Rock, witnessing the birth of a harbor seal, and whale watching from Face Rock are a few great observations.

SEA is a Friends Group to the US Fish and Wildlife Service and this relationship allows us to work on behalf of a much larger organization and reach many more people.

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How We Serve One Another (continued)

I also volunteer at the Charleston Marine Life Center and I am so thankful for the knowledge I have gained in that capacity. (Learn more at <https://cmlc.uoregon.edu/>)

Frustrations

As with any non-profit organization, having and keeping volunteers is paramount. Because Bandon is a small and somewhat transient community, it can be difficult to not only find, but to retain volunteers. We have lost some very devoted and well trained volunteers in the past due to relocation and aging. Our membership has increased, but the volunteer pool is minimal right now. Always looking and never giving up though!



Mary Garrett

Volunteering & Faith

I strongly believe that we are meant to be good stewards of the Earth and nature. Mammals, birds and intertidal life deserve respect and protection from negative human impact. Personally, I experience a strong spiritual connection to the beauty and natural habitats surrounding me. To quote the Book of Common Prayer....

*Almighty God...you made us fellow workers in your creation; give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature, that no one may suffer from our abuse of them.
(BCP pg 827 Conservation of Natural Resources Prayer).+*

St. John is blessed and grateful to have Mary Garret as a member of our congregation. She currently serves on the Bishop's Advisory Committee (BAC), the Altar Guild, and is a Lay Eucharistic Minister and active member of our lay ministry.

Prayer List

Doug Kelley Hall, Dino Kummelehne, Lynnette Kummelehne, Dan & Olivia Andor, Lorna Barney, Lenor, Bob & Donna, Jack, Rick, Colleen Carson, Matthew, Mike Fitzgerald, Keali'i, Bea Bone, Rick, Chris Cummings, Robin Haruna, Grant, David, Bill, Tom, Marty, Mary, Doris, Karen & Joe, Myra & Jim, Roy, Juanita, Kelly, James, Sue, Michelle, Kathy, Melissa, Brady, Sandy, Kimberly, Marilyn, Bill & Steve.

Senior Warden Report

Annual Meeting attendees had the opportunity to share thoughts, longings and suggestions for 2022. Here is what 's on their minds.

General Comments

So glad we made it through 2021!

Let's keep our wonderful, talented people & collect more through 2022 outreach programs.

Getting Back to "Normal"

Let's return to singing in church and resume full Communion with wine ASAP.

We should hold at least one social event.

Ditto from another person: have more in person gatherings & celebrations.

Ideas on How to Reach Out in New Ways

Have a food closet or locker on our grounds.

Serve animals in need in shelters, or other.

Consider having bilingual outreach & services.

Serve the homeless, hungry, disenfranchised.

Support the Devereux Housing Project and/or the Devereux Center.

Focus on Earth stewardship & evaluate St. John's footprint.

Participation as a group at community Earth stewardship events.

Money

Hold the rummage sale fundraiser ASAP.

Rebuild the capital fund (the fund that supports physical improvements).

Recruiting Worship Workers

Encourage & recruit new LEM's, readers & ushers via a class and/or gathering.

Host a monthly breakfast to encourage & support each other as servers.

The BAC discussed all of these ideas. If you have thoughts to share please don't hesitate to let us know.

You can email any ideas to stjohns.bandon@gmail.com, to the attention of the BAC.

Judy Jackson, Senior Warden

WHERE DOES ALL OUR MONEY GO?

A couple questions about our church finances came up in written reflections at our Annual Meeting. I will try to answer them here, but if my answers raise more questions please ask.

PLEDGES made during our annual stewardship campaign are our Operating Fund's primary source of income. In a perfect world they would cover all day-to-day expenses of operating a church.

OPEN OFFERINGS (sometimes called "loose" or "plate" offerings) include cash and checks not designated for specific purposes. This money also supports the Operating Fund unless it is announced that it will be designated for a particular purpose (such as "Canonical Offerings").

CANONICAL OFFERINGS are set out in the Diocesan "Canons" (governing rules). Three days a year, a special collection is taken for: Theological Education (to support a seminary of the parish's choice); Pentecost (providing grant money the diocese can award to special projects or ministries); and Thanksgiving Day (supporting the diocesan effort to address the needs of the poor and homeless). A fourth canonical offering is only made when the Bishop visits a congregation: the Bishop's Discretionary Fund functions like our Clergy Discretionary Fund.

CLERGY DISCRETIONARY FUND is used by our priest to aid those in need. Two Sundays a year, the "Open Offering" is designated for this fund, but people may contribute at any time by writing a check to St. John's with "Clergy Discretionary Fund" in the memo.

CLERGY RESERVE FUND is not used for charitable purposes. It is a money market account that guarantees we will have enough money saved to cover clergy compensation beyond the current year if pledge income is not enough. After years of struggling to provide proper compensation for a priest, it was established in 2018, during our Quasiquicentennial fundraising campaign. Our current goal is to maintain two year's funding, and we are about halfway there. This money cannot be used for anything but clergy expenses, and only when the BAC authorizes its transfer into the Operating Fund.

ALTAR FUND is used to purchase durable items like vestments and furnishings for worship that are not donated as memorial gifts. It is not used to purchase candles, wine, and hosts, which are expendable "Worship Supplies" in the Operating Budget. The Altar Fund is supported by monetary donations for flowers.

CAPITAL FUND is a money market account set aside for major improvements to church property (examples: the renovation of Theresa Hall and new siding on the building).

MEMORIAL FUND is the depository for money usually received at funerals. It can be used to purchase an item for the church in memory of an individual (like candlesticks on the altar or stained-glass windows, or Prayer Books and Hymnals).

MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET receives donations from grateful clients and uses them for operating costs and to purchase new medical equipment. One of MLC's operating costs is an annual donation to St. John's Operating Fund (for use of church facilities.)

PASS-THROUGH GIFTS FUND is where special gifts are temporarily held until they can be forwarded to the organization the donor designated. For example, money contributed on **Birthdays and Anniversaries** is accumulated here and sent quarterly to "Bandon Feeds the Hungry," which supports five local non-profits.

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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=eGITMEthTnUyQWk3TW9hNmszemRsQT09> 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.

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

Archbishop Justin Welby
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell



BAC

Senior Warden: Judy Jackson

Junior Warden: Sally Glunt

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

Treasurer: Denise Skillman

Clerk:

Bankers: Kathy Webb

Convention Delegates: Judy Jackson & Sally Glunt

Staff

Priest-in-Charge:
The Rev. Doug Hale

Music Director:
Cynthia Mohorko

Church Administrator:
Virginia MacCallum

OFFICE HOURS

We have not yet returned to a regular schedule of office hours because of Covid. We will let you know when we do resume office hours. Meanwhile, the administrator is working at her duties, and Fr. Doug is keeping his schedule.

WHERE DOES ALL OUR MONEY GO? (continued)

It has been a practice at St. John's for a long time to contribute money (one dollar per year, if possible – though any amount is welcomed) in thanksgiving for a life lived or in honor of a wedding anniversary.

UNRESTRICTED SAVINGS is held in a money market account. As its name implies, it can be used for any of St. John's immediate needs that current income doesn't cover. The BAC decides when/if it should be used.

Any time individuals want to contribute to a specific fund they can write a check to St. John's and designate the fund name in the memo space.

Denise Skillman, Treasurer

Credits: The lovely prayer for Ukraine on page 10 of this newsletter is from St. John's Episcopal Church in Cold Springs Harbor, NY. <https://www.stjcsh.org/blog/prayers-for-ukraine/>



The National Flag of Ukraine

The gold field in the Ukraine flag represents the sunflower, their national flower. Their major agricultural products are from the fields of sunflowers that thrive there.

Let us add our own prayers for an end to Russian aggression against Ukraine and restoration of peace in that part of the world.

**S t . J o h n ' s
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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.