

St. John's Journal

August 2022

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

&

ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

9: *Caroline McKemy*

21: *Rosemary Dunster*

23: *Patti Hale*

Anniversaries

11: *Patti & Doug Hale*

14: *Juanita Limon & Bob Graville*



Fr. Doug's Iconic Column

I find myself thinking and praying these days about how to be better focused upon God during challenging circumstances. Life can throw us curves that can come at us again and again or they can seem like they are non-stop, and we wonder if they will ever end. There can also be times when we come to realize that our faith in Christ has become rather shallow or that we are just going through the motions. How do we center ourselves in Christ? How do we find firm footing upon the foundation of Christ so that we can stand our ground while being buffeted? How do we let the mind of Christ take root in our hearts?

Frankly, what can be helpful varies from person to person. For some, participating in worship on Sunday morning really helps them get refocused each week. Different people are impacted by different elements of worship. For some, it is the scripture reading, or the sermon preached. For some it is particular hymns, or the music in general. For some it is the physical event of receiving the body and blood of Christ that touches them deeply. For some, they cannot count on being refreshed at every worship service, but there will be times when they are surprised at how God moved through some element of worship that day.

I am one of those that gets surprised. Sometimes I am really touched as I am preparing the sermon, struggling with what the scriptures are saying or how I am going to pass the message along in my sermon, and then the Spirit comes along and whacks me on the head. And then there are the sermons that I am not impressed with and yet quite often it is those sermons that I hear have really touched you. At those times I know that it is in God's hands and not really in my control.

For some of us, we find the most spiritual rejuvenation in our personal times of reading scripture and/or praying at home. It is in those times of quiet when we can take our time to reflect upon what we have read or when our hearts are turned toward praying for others that we can have a profound sense that God is with us.

And then of course there is the opportunity that living in this beautiful place, with mountains, trees, flowing streams and rivers and a majestic ocean spread out before us affords us. When we take in the majesty and intricacy of God's creation, our thinking can be reset and all of life is put into a different perspective. If we think the element of our individual lives are weighty, how do they compare to the vast ocean, or the grand field of stars, or the amazing universe that just got bigger in our awareness because of the James Webb Space Telescope, and then there is God who encompasses it all? Perspective is a great teacher.

Sometimes we need to physically step out of our usual routine and take some time to do something different, to leave behind the usual circumstances and claims upon our lives and get away. God can often speak to us during those times. I will be taking a week off this month (Aug. 8-14) to do some of that (and celebrate Patti's and my 32nd anniversary).

One way to take time away, besides a vacation, is to participate in a spiritual retreat. Such times can be rejuvenating and eye opening. Our relationship with Jesus Christ can come to life in new ways. An opportunity for this is presenting itself in September. The Oregon and SW Washington (continued p. 3)

Fr. Doug's Iconic Column (continued)

Episcopal Cursillo will hold a Cursillo Weekend for all adults on September 8-11 (Thurs. evening – Sun. afternoon) at the Oregon Christian Convention Center in Turner. There will be thought provoking presentations and times of worship, all in the context of a caring community. It promises to be both serious and fun. If you are interested in finding out more about it, you can speak to Bill or Kay who attended a Cursillo weekend a good number of years ago. Or you can speak with me. I was involved in the leadership of Cursillo while in Massachusetts and in the leadership of its equivalent among United Methodists here in Oregon back in the dark ages. You can also go to the Oregon Cursillo website to learn find current information: www.oregon-cursillo.org. If you are interested in attending the weekend, I would love to make that happen for you.

What every we choose to do, whatever helps us open ourselves to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, let us take advantage of the opportunities we are given.

Fr. Doug Hale

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

Here's what took place at the July BAC meeting

We Reviewed

The June and year-to-date financial reports.

We Discussed

The upcoming financial audit of our 2021 books by retired accountant, Sally Jaeggli.

The potential parking lot expansion project.

Fr. Doug's vacation (Aug. 8-14) and service coverage in his absence.

Ongoing COVID safety precautions.

How to best welcome and engage newcomers.

How to change building access during Sunday worship to insure personal safety.

We Approved

The dismantling and removal of the corroded metal cross in the front garden by welder, Mike Grahek.

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?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5042346656?pwd=eGlTMethTnUyQWk3TW9hNmszemRsQT09)

[pwd=eGlTMethTnUyQWk3TW9hNmszemRsQT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5042346656?pwd=eGlTMethTnUyQWk3TW9hNmszemRsQT09) 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.

Musings from Denise



Thanks to our onshore breezes, the “Dog Days of Summer” don’t affect us in Bandon like they do in most of the Northern Hemisphere, unless we plan to travel, but we can certainly feel for those who are suffering. Weather reports last month showed heat wave after heat wave spreading across the United States and Europe, causing serious health complications for people and pets, overloading power grids,

scorching fields, and fanning the flames of widespread forest fires. Who could have believed that temperatures could rise so high in England that an airport tarmac north of London would melt, and trains would be halted because the rails got hot enough to buckle?

This season within a season starts sometime in July and lasts through some (or most) of August, depending on various sources. The *Old Farmer's Almanac* reckons the Dog Days of Summer are the 40 days between July 3 and August 11 this year. The term refers to the particularly hot and humid period of mid-summer most of the Northern Hemisphere experiences when the super bright “Dog Star” Sirius begins to rise just before the Sun. (The name Sirius, incidentally, stems from the Greek word for “scorching.”)

In ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome, the dawn rising of Sirius (known as Sothis in Egypt) in mid- to late summer intensified the Sun’s heat and contributed to extreme weather conditions.

The Egyptians considered the star a “watchdog” that signaled the welcome arrival of the Nile River’s flood season, which brought deposits of rich soil for crops in an otherwise arid land. Greeks and Romans took a dimmer view. In the *Aeneid*, the Roman poet Virgil wrote, “fiery Sirius, bringer of drought and plague to frail mortals rises and saddens the sky with sinister light.” (A 2009 Finnish study aimed to dispel the myth that the rate of infections is higher during the dog days but found it to be true.)

A recent BBC article turned my thoughts of the “Dog Days of Summer” in a different direction. Although I am more of a “Cat Fancier” than a dog person, I know many of you prefer canines.

Can you believe that in Tehran, walking dogs in parks is now a crime punishable by arrest of the owner, fines, and seizure of the animal? In addition, the Iranian parliament is considering a bill that would restrict ownership nationwide of dogs, cats, and a range of other animals “to protect the safety of the public” because they are considered impure in Islamic tradition.

Never mind the fact that keeping these pets has been common in Iran’s rural areas for millennia -- or that Iran was one of the first Middle Eastern countries to pass animal welfare laws (1948). During the 20th century dogs became a symbol of both urban life and westernization, and therefore have been under legislative attack since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

But that’s not all. If the bill passes, even one of the world’s oldest domestic feline breeds (Persians), highly regarded for over 3,700 years, could be potentially outlawed in their own homeland.

So, when you finish reading this, go pet your cat and take your dog for a walk. Give them both a treat and rejoice that we have the freedom to enjoy their companionship, and not just during the “Dog Days of Summer.”



Tradition

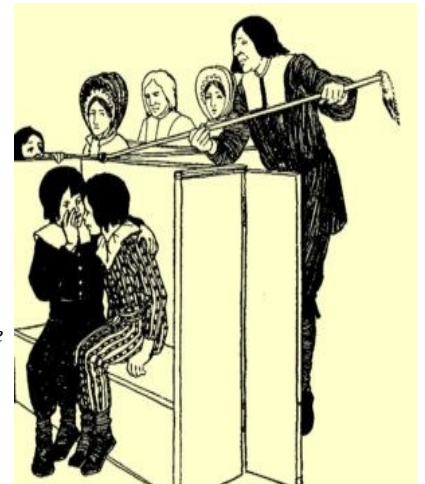
Once upon a time, a long time ago, there was a job during church services for a man called Tithingman. Just as a crucifer carries a cross, the priest carries the missal or Word of God, and the usher carries the alms basin, Tithingman carried something that identified his role. Tithingman carried a long pole with a wooden knob on the end. His duty was to watch for churchgoers who were sleeping during worship and rap them on the noggin to awaken them. If the sleeper was a woman or a child, the wake-up was delivered with the softer, furry tool. "To assist him in his duties, many tithingmen were given a long staff. One end was rounded or sharp and on the other a soft implement was attached, such as a feathery deer tail or rabbit's foot" (New England Historical Society).

That rap on the head was effective. The miscreants quickly awoke to hear the Word! While the duty of Tithingman was a feature of the Puritan colonies in New England, perhaps we need to consider resurrecting that duty here at St. John. Why on earth would we even consider such an archaic (and possibly unlawful) behavior? It has a lot to do with tradition.

Tradition! No, this is not quite the same thing Tevye sings about in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Rather, it is about the Episcopal/Anglican tradition of entering the church in respectful, contemplative silence and using the quiet, sacred space to center, to shake off the outside world, and prepare for worship. It is a peaceful quiet most of us cherish.

What is happening at St. John as we embrace our return to worship together after a long pandemic? We are joyous at being together again with our church family, and the result is that the nave of St. John before service sounds like Super Bowl Sunday in a crowded sports bar. Gone is the familiar peace-filled quiet of the church before worship begins. It has been replaced with loud chatter and laughter that are unsettling, disrespectful, and detracting from the needs of most of the congregation for our traditional quiet in our holy space.

Please take your joyous shouts and laughter outside or into Theresa Hall at our coffee hour after church. Otherwise, we will be auditioning for and training a new lay ministry position: Tithingman/Tithingwoman, whose pole and knob will be directed at those who are talking, hollering, laughing loudly, and disturbing the peace. (These days we are short on males participating in our lay ministry, so the title will be Tithingwoman. We ARE an equal opportunity employer, folks!)

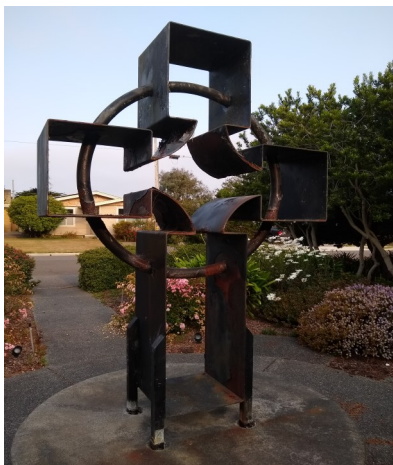


Thanks to the following website for information about Tithingman: <https://www.newenglandhistoricalsociety.com/hellfire-whippings-woodchuck-bites-perils-puritans-sleeping-church/>

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

COURTYARD UPDATE

As many of you know, the BAC decided to remove the steel cross in the front courtyard. This was not an easy decision, but necessary due to the declining condition of the metal. The cross was removed last Saturday by local welder Mike Grahek free-of-charge in exchange for the scrap metal. (Bandonians may know his wife Darcy, who owns the native plant nursery) For the time being, potted plants and flowers may adorn the space while a more permanent replacement is identified. There have been some suggestions given, but they all involve substantial costs, especially as we're working to be financially responsible for anticipated church operating costs. We welcome ideas you may have for this space and funding a focal point in the courtyard would make a lovely tribute or memorial. If you'd be interested in this project, please contact me or Fr. Doug.



August 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	<i>1</i> 7:30 AA	<i>2</i> 8 AA	<i>3</i> 7 00 Eve Prayer 8 AA	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> ^{9th} Sun of Pentecost HE II	<i>8</i> 7:30 AA	<i>9</i> 8 AA	<i>10</i> NO Eve Prayer 8 AA 7 00	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> ^{10th} Sun of Pen- tecost MP II	<i>15</i> 7:30 AA	<i>16</i> 1 BAC 8 AA	<i>17</i> 7 00 Eve Prayer 8 AA	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> ^{11th} Sun of Pen- tecost HE II	<i>22</i> 7:30 AA	<i>23</i> 8 AA	<i>24</i> 7 00 Eve Prayer 8 AA	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> ^{12th} Sun of Pen- tecost HE II	<i>29</i> 7:30 AA	<i>30</i> 8 AA	<i>31</i> 7 00 Eve Prayer 8 AA			

BAC

Senior Warden: Judy Jackson
Junior Warden: Sally Glunt
Members at Large: Mary Garrett, Lani Reynolds, Maggie Lowery, Gail Pray
Treasurer: Denise Skillman
Clerk: Beth Wilmot
Banker: Kathy Webb

Convention Delegates: Judy Jackson & Sally Glunt

Staff

Vicar:
 The Rev. Doug Hale

Music Director:
 Cynthia Mohorko

Church Administrator:
 Virginia MacCallum

OFFICE HOURS

Our Vicar, Fr. Doug, is generally in his church office Tuesday and Thursday from about noon until about 4:00 p.m.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for your continuing support or our outreach to feed the hungry of Bandon. This is an ecumenical outreach in which we participate with other churches in our communities.

If you wonder what is most needed, consider these: **FOOD:** unopened non-perishable food, food in pull-top cans, canned fruit, canned meat, chili, ravioli, stew, soup, peanut butter, jelly/jam, mayonnaise, ketchup, co-coa mix, cereal. **PERSONAL CARE:** shampoo, conditioner, bath soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, combs, deodorant, cotton swabs, feminine hygiene products, ladies' panties (new & gently used and clean). **CLOTHING/SHELTER:** socks, gloves, belts, knit caps, backpacks, hand-warmers, tarps. **PET CARE:** small bags of cat food and dog food, collars, leashes. **THINGS FOOD STAMPS/SNAP WON'T BUY:** laundry detergent, cleaning products, toilet paper, tissues, non-food items.

**S t . J o h n E p i s c o p a l
 C h u r c h**

795 Franklin Avenue
 P.O. Box 246
 Bandon, OR 97411

Phone: 541-347-2152
 Email: stjohns.bandon@gmail.com
 Website: www.stjohnsbandon.org
 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.