

# *St. John's Journal*

## *February 2023*



### **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

**1: Leland Pestana**

**5: Bill Marino**

**6: Maggie Lowery**

**19: Ivy Wagner**

**20: Ann Sandstrom**

**22: Braydon Wagner**

**26: Denise Skillman**

### **FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

**13: Helen & Eddie Miller**

**15: Lara & Dave Mickle**



## *Fr. Doug's Iconic Column*

This past Sunday we had our Annual Meeting. Besides having to do the usual business of approving a budget for the year, and electing members of BAC and Diocesan Delegates, we had a fun time of recognizing the various ways that different individuals contribute to the life of St. John. "Academy" awards were given out with little trophies. It was a lighthearted way to recognize how we all make contributions to the life that we share together.

The Apostle Paul spoke of this when he wrote:

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;

and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord;

and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone one.

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good....

All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses." (I Cor. 12:4-7,11)

This description of the church has been important to me for a long time. It has inspired me as a pastor to try to discern what the various members of the congregations I have served have to offer for the good of the life of the church. I have sought to lead, but as a member of a team, which God has designed. It is a pleasure to be a part of St. John because of all the individuals who have so much to offer each other. I am also impressed by those who have something to offer that impacts the world outside our walls. The work of the volunteers at the Medical Loan Closet certainly stand out. But one thing I learned long ago serving small churches is that quite often the impact the church has is not through the organization of the church, but through individual members who give of themselves to make a difference in the community in which we find ourselves. There are a lot of different "Academy" awards that could be given out.

While it is an important part of my work that I seek to discern what others have to offer, it is also important for each of us to be able to recognize what it is that we have to offer. What is it that God wants to do through us and for which has given us the ability? I would be glad to meet with anyone who wants to explore what God might be trying to do through them. The Diocese is putting more emphasis upon formal discernment processes, especially for those wondering if God is calling them to ordained ministry. But seeking to help people discern what God is up to within and through them should not be limited to the ordained but needs to be a part of what we do for every member of the body of Christ.

So please let me know if you want to explore this. I am sure that we have more "Academy" awards to be handed out.

Fr. Doug



## **Bishop's Advisory Committee Notes – January 2023**

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

### **We Reviewed**

The December and annual Profit & Loss reports.

### **We Voted**

To accept Treasurer Denise's 2023 budget to present at the Annual Meeting for approval.

### **We Discussed**

Changing our restroom signage so that both restrooms are gender neutral allowing for either gender to use either restroom. Junior Warden Sally will purchase gender-neutral signage to put on both doors.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> following worship. A menu for the meeting was planned.

The retrieval of the blown off wooden St. John signs on the outdoor steel.

New BAC membership and leadership.

### **We Learned**

Jr. Warden Sally replaced our HVAC filters and will schedule an annual HVAC system maintenance with RHS Heating in June.

Artificial greens swags will be purchased (donated) now for decorating the Sanctuary next Christmas. A small artificial tree will also be purchased (donated) for display in the Narthex.

Church Insurance Corporation has increased our insurance coverage for malicious events.

### **Upcoming Events**

Convocation Vestry/BAC Training will be held at Emmanuel on February 25.

## **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*

### **When Will Winter End?**

While Spring won't officially arrive in the northern hemisphere until March 20<sup>th</sup>, both ancient and modern western cultures on both sides of the Atlantic have prepared for it during the lengthening days of February with purification rites to ensure a good planting season and a fruitful harvest.

The earliest Roman lunar calendar had only ten months, beginning in March when crops were planted and ending in December. Winter gap days were unaccounted for until the 7th Century B.C., when January and February were added to synchronize the lunar calendar with the solar cycle of seasons. (The names of the last four months of our calendar retain their Latin roots for seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth, even though they no longer hold those numerical places.)

"February" takes its name from an ancient Roman three-day pastoral purification festival called "Februa" that took place between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Torchlit processions around the city aimed to purify and revive the earth's fertility at the end of winter. On the last day, known as "Lupercalia," goats were sacrificed, and young men dressed in goatskins ran through the streets, striking eager women's palms with goatskin whips. These lashes were meant to guarantee easy childbirth for those who were pregnant and fertility for those who were not.

The Church sought to suppress such pagan rites with a Christian festival of light and purification on those same days, but it was later moved to February 2<sup>nd</sup> and variously known as **Candlemas**, the Feast of the Purification of the Virgin Mary, and Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. Candlemas is a liturgy included in the Episcopal *Book of Occasional Services* and was celebrated at St. John's years ago. It involves a candlelit procession into the church and commemorates the day when, in obedience to Jewish law, the Virgin Mary took the infant Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem so that she could be purified (40 days after his birth) and he could be ritually presented to God and recognized (by Simeon) as the Savior of humankind -- "a light to enlighten the nations and the glory of your people Israel" (Luke 2:22-38).

In Mexico, the Christmas Season does not end until *El Día de la Candelaria* (Candlemas Day), when the Baby Jesus is taken from the Nativity Scene to be elegantly dressed and presented in church. Although Candlemas is a Christian tradition that harks back to the 4<sup>th</sup> Century A.D., it was quickly adopted after the Spanish conquest of the Americas and includes some pre-Columbian elements. On this date, pre-Hispanic people asked their gods for rain and good harvest by offering maize, corn, and tamales to them. (Tamales are still served on this day.)

In the U.S. and Canada, February 2<sup>nd</sup> is widely celebrated as **Groundhog Day**. On this day, people try to predict the end of winter by observing a groundhog emerging from its burrow. If the weather is cloudy and it does not see its shadow, spring will soon arrive. But if it is sunny and the animal does see its shadow, it will retreat to its den to continue hibernating. It is then said that winter will last another six weeks. Similar proverbs predict the coming of spring in a Christian context:

"If Candlemas Day be fair and bright, winter will have another fight."  
"If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain, winter won't come again."

## **THE NEW BAC**

At our Annual Meeting, we elected Kathy Webb and Denise Skillman as new voting members of the BAC. Denise had been attending the BAC as the Treasurer, but not as a voting member. Sally Glunt was elected by the BAC for a second term as Junior Warden. So here is your new BAC:

Senior Warden – Laurea Arnoldt

Junior Warden – Sally Glunt

Treasurer – Denise Skillman

At Large member – Gail Pray & Kathy Webb

The BAC is also wanting to elect a new Clerk, who would be responsible for taking minutes of the meetings. If you would like to be able to be in the know about BAC discussions and decisions without having to be responsible for those decisions and have some basic writing skills you would be willing to put to use, please contact Fr. Doug or Laurea and offer to be the Clerk of the BAC.

## **LENT IS APPROACHING**

The season of Lent will begin on Wednesday February 22, with Ash Wednesday. In preparation for that, the BAC is planning on a Shrove Tuesday dinner on Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> from 5 to 7pm. That should give people who need to get home before dark to enjoy the food offerings and the fellowship before they head home.

We will offer an Ash Wednesday Service at Noon on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Fr. Doug is considering offering a class during the Lenten season. He is thinking it might be held on Thursdays at 1pm. More news to come on that front.

## **BANDON FEEDS THE HUNGRY**

The ecumenical food pantry depends on each of us for our gifts of food each month. As you bring the non-perishable food items for this ongoing need, please remember, too, the family dog or cat. Since these items are not for human consumption, they cannot be obtained with food stamps. You also cannot obtain any of these needed items with food stamps: deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant,, safety razors, soap (bath and laundry), and women's sanitary products.

# February 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 7:30 Eve Prayer 8:00 AA	2 10:30 SEA 6:30 Choir Practice	3	4
5 5th Sun after Epiphany HE	6 7:30 AA	7 8:00 AA	8 7:30 Eve Prayer 8:00 AA	9 6:30 Choir Practice	10	11
12 6th Sun after Epiphany HE	13 7:30 AA	14 1 BAC 8:00 AA	15 16 7-30 Eve Prayer 8:00 AA	16 6:30 Choir Practice	17	18
19 Last Sun after Epiphany HE	20 7:30 AA	21 5-7 Shrove Tues Supper 8:00 AA	22 Noon Ash Wednes- day Svc 7:30 Eve Prayer	23 6:30 Choir Practice	24	25
26 1st Sun of Lent HE	27 7:30 AA	28 8:00 AA				



## Amazon Smile News

In 2013, Amazon launched AmazonSmile to support their customers' favorite charities. St. John has been a designated AmazonSmile charity since 2018.

Amazon has announced that they will be discontinuing AmazonSmile by February 20, 2023. They found that with so many eligible organizations—more than 1 million globally—their ability to have an impact was often spread too thin.

They will continue to pursue and invest in other areas hoping to make meaningful change—from building affordable housing to providing access to computer science education for students in underserved communities to using their logistics infrastructure and technology to assist communities impacted by natural disasters.

To help charities that have been a part of the AmazonSmile program with this transition, they will provide a one-time donation equivalent to three months of what they earned in 2022 through the program, and they will also be able to accrue additional donations until the program officially closes in February.



## ANNUAL MEETING

Jan.29,  
2023



**St. John Episcopal Church**

**795 Franklin Avenue**

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**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**

**\*\*\*\***

**Medical Loan Closet**

**Phone: 541-590-2443**

**\*\*\*\***

**A Believe Out Loud**

**Congregation**



“If Adam and Eve were Cajuns, they would have eaten the snake instead of the apple and saved us all a lot of trouble.” (Source unknown)

**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.

**BISHOP'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BAC)**

**Bishop's Warden: Laurea Arnoldt**

**Junior Warden: Sally Glunt**

**Treasurer: Denise Skillman**

**Members at large: Gail Pray & Kathy Webb**

**\*\***

**Convention Delegates: Laurea Arnoldt & Kay Marino**

**Alternates: Sally Glunt & Judy Jackson**

**CHURCH STAFF**

**Vicar: The Rev. Doug Hale**

**Music Director" Cy7nthia M0horko**

**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.

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