

# St. John's Journal

October 2023

## *Fr. Doug's Iconic Column*

### CONVERSATION ON LISTENING

The last few weeks we have been having a wonderful gathering for our Conversations on Listening. As was pointed out, while the life of St. Johns has been focused upon gathering for worship and pleasant conversations during Coffee Hour, there has been far less opportunity for a time where we could share in meaningful sharing about our spiritual lives. These conversations have been providing such an opportunity for those who have been able to come. The hour and a half session starting on Thursdays at 10:30 are not highly structured, I provide a little bit of stimulus to get the conversation going, but it then becomes a time of listening to each other and seeing where the Spirit is leading us. If you have not participated, don't let that stop you from coming and seeing what it is like to be listening to each other and listening for God to speak.

### WHATS COMING UP

The first half of October is going to have a number of special events on Sunday mornings.

On October 1<sup>st</sup> we will be observing the **Feast of St. Francis**. At 11am, we will be having a **Blessing of the Animals**, where folks can bring their pets or photos of pets for a blessing. The weather forecast at this point indicates that we will be able to have this gathering out on the deck. But Theresa Hall will be our back up.

On October 8<sup>th</sup> we will be having the **Kick-off of our Stewardship Campaign**. After worship in Theresa Hall as part of the kickoff, Bradford McKeown, who grew up in Emmanuel Parish in Coos Bay, will be making a special presentation about how to maximize tax savings while donating money from IRA distributions.

On October 15<sup>th</sup> we will be having a **Service of Healing and Forgiveness**.

Looking ahead, on November 5<sup>th</sup> we will be observing **All Saints and All Souls**. As part of this special day, we remember our friends and family members who have died during the past year. Please give their names to me or to Ginger so that they may be included in our prayers. (see p. 2)



## *Fr. Doug's Iconic Column (continued)*

### COVID ET AL

As you may know, a couple of our members recently became infected with COVID. Despite the levels of COVID being much lower than a year ago, it is still with us and probably always will be to some extent. So, it is important for us to have some sensible guideline for caring for ourselves and each other and especially those around us who have compromised immune systems. If we learn that we were exposed to someone who tested positive, then we should wait 5 days before taking a test ourselves unless symptoms have already appeared. In any case, if you do get sick, with COVID or the flu or RSV, please stay home as a way of caring for others and focus on getting well. We will miss you at church, but we want you to get well. Some of us have continued to use masks in some public places, including church. There can be some real wisdom in that, especially if you have other health issues or have doubts about whether you have been exposed or not. I think wearing masks is going to be a more common thing from now on. I will be getting inoculations for COVID, RSV and the flu soon. If you can, please do so for your own protection and that of others.



Fr. Doug

## *So Noted*

### Treasurer Report Denise

1. Pledge income year-to-date is \$8200 below target.
2. The Memorial Garden Fund has been established. The Fund balance is currently \$1000.
3. A very generous gift of \$5000 as “seed money” for our Holiday Pie Fundraiser has been received.
4. The Money Market account is still being reconciled. As of September 7, 2023, the balance is \$90,505.92 which includes interest of \$32.44.

### Senior Warden Report- Lauea Arnoldt

Our Stewardship Campaign will kick-off on Sunday, October 8. Jeff and Bradford McKeown with Morgan Stanley (Coos Bay office) will have a presentation during Coffee Hour.

There was a discussion about inviting church members to share (3-5 minute) their personal reasons on why they give. Commitment Sunday is on November 26th.

Halloween is on Tuesday, October 31st. There was a discussion about offering a Halloween trick-or-treat event for the community similar to last year. If we choose to do so, we talked about the specifics for this event: a. Having socks and apples as “treats” besides candy. b. Having warm cider and coffee available for the trick-or-treaters. c. Timeframe for this event.

### Junior Warden Report- Sally Glunt

1. Update of the roof project: We are in a holding pattern. Currently we have received 5 bids that range from \$58,400 to \$85,000. Fr. Doug shared that Emmanuel Episcopal was enthusiastic about Expert Roofing in Eugene. Sally also contacted Expert Roofing. Expert Roofing would charge \$150 to provide a bid to St. John since we are out of their service area. If we decide to select Expert Roofing, this \$150 cost would be included with the overall cost. If we do not select Expert Roofing, we would forego this \$150 cost. Fr. Doug offered to contact Emmanuel

(Continued on page 3)

### *So Noted (continued)*

Episcopal about the details of the overall cost of the bid they received for their roofing project. When we have received feedback from Emmanuel, we can decide whether or not we want to pay for this additional bid. The proposed timeframe to begin this roofing project in May 2024. We are currently on a "placeholder list" with two local roofing contractors. These contractors are Pioneer Roofing and Rich Rayburn Roofing. Laurea has started on a Grant application for this roofing project. Once we have finalized the details and we are closer to the proposed start date, Laurea will complete this Grant application for submission.

2. Scatter Garden Update: The name decided for our Scatter Garden is St. John Memorial Garden. The definition of a "scatter garden" is "ashes co-mingled with dirt". Sally contacted West Coast Monument in Myrtle Point. She had a sample of the proposed marker style "Georgia Grey." The size of the markers would be approximately 8" x 4" x 2". The estimated cost of each marker is \$89 which includes the etching and painting of letters and dates. Each marker will have the name of the individual, the date of birth and the date of death. The cost would be paid for by the family of the individual. The timeframe to make each marker is 2-3 weeks. Fr. Doug will add the necessary information to the order form for a monument marker that he is drafting. He will share this draft at our next BAC meeting. Fr. Doug reminded us that there still is work to do to determine and map out the location of our utilities in the front garden (water, lighting) in order to avoid them when digging/scattering ashes. Gail raised a question about the maintenance (weed control, etc) of this Garden. A Memorial Garden Fund has been established for this purpose. In addition, our regular landscaping maintenance is provided by Ebb Tide Landscaping & Maintenance. Sally proposed that we have Ebb Tide scheduled for the end of September or beginning of October for hedge trimming and weeding.

#### Vicar Report -Father Doug

Fr. Doug had the following updates and calendar items for review and discussion:

1. Christmas Services: Christmas is on Monday, December 25th. The 4th Sunday of Advent is on Sunday, December 24th (Christmas Eve). We talked about the services on Sunday, December 24th. Fr. Doug shared his thoughts and guidance. It was decided to celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent (12/24) at our 9:30am regular worship service. We will also have a Christmas Eve service (Lessons & Carols) at either 4:00 or 4:30pm. There will be no service on Christmas Day.
2. The Shepherd's House: The Shepherd's House grand opening was celebrated on Saturday, September 9th. This special event was wellattended for various parishes in Oregon. Bishop Diana was able to join the celebration which was delightful.
3. Gathering for Listening: The first Gathering for Listening was held on Thursday, September 7th at 10:30am. There were 11 people in attendance. Fr. Doug was unsure about what the turn-out might be. He was pleased to have this first Gathering to be so well received.
4. Blessing of the Animals: We will celebrate St. Francis of Assisi on Sunday, October 1st . After the service at 11:00am, we will have the Blessing of the Animals in Theresa Hall or on our deck, weather permitting. We will have a St. Francis medallion and a Blessing card for all pet-owners. We will also have treats for dogs.
5. Covid-19 update: We will return to having our sanctuary doors left open during our service for increased airflow. We will restock masks and hand sanitizers in our pews and front entrance area. Fr. Doug and/or Sally will get the current OHA recommendation on Covid-19 best practices.
6. Bishop Diana's Visit: The tentative date for the next visit by Bishop Diana is June 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurea Arnoldt

Bishop's Warden

## *Musings from Denise*



### Thinking about Milestones

The Romans built more than 53,000 miles of roads throughout their empire, and every 1,000 (“mille”) paces (roughly one mile) they placed a stone marker. This enabled travelers to measure how far they had walked on their journey. Our own highways have mile markers serving the same purpose. But we also use “milestones” to mark significant moments in our lives: a key birthday or anniversary, a child’s first step, first word, or first day of school; graduation; a person’s first job, a promotion or reaching retirement; achieving a dream or a weight loss goal; the list of possible milestones, both large and small, is endless.

Milestones are hallowed moments to be remembered and honored. When we pause to hold those moments in our hearts we can reflect on where we came from, how we got where we are today, and where our next steps will take us. The Romans built more than 53,000 miles of roads throughout their empire, and every 1,000 (“mille”) paces (roughly one mile) they placed a stone marker. This enabled travelers to measure how far they had walked on their journey. Our own highways have mile markers serving the same purpose. But we also use “milestones” to mark significant moments in our lives: a key birthday or anniversary, a child’s first step, first word, or first day of school; graduation; a person’s first job, a promotion or reaching retirement; achieving a dream or a weight loss goal; the list of possible milestones, both large and small, is endless.

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### Some Stories Stick with You

Medical Loan Closet volunteers hear a lot of stories from our clients but every now and then a story really lingers.

In September I met a woman named Mary who wanted to donate wheelchair parts to the MLC. Mary was in the area from her home in California and while cleaning out the house of her disabled son, Mark, found all sorts of wheelchair parts that he had collected over the years. We met at Mark’s home in a cramped Coquille neighborhood.

Mary told me Mark’s story. Mark had been a logger until at the age of thirty-eight a free falling log slid down a hillside and crushed him. For the next twenty, wheelchair-bound years he lived independently, but alone, and tinkered in his garage – improving and repairing his wheelchairs. Then at age fifty-eight doctors discovered Mark had pancreatic cancer. Three months after his diagnosis, he passed.

This is a story about a grim end of life, about a mother who won’t easily lose the horrible images of her son’s passing. But it’s also a story about a community stepping in to help. When Mark missed an appointment at the Waterfall Clinic a concerned nurse called Mary. Mary couldn’t reach him so she called the taxi driver who regularly delivered food and groceries. The driver found Mark dead inside his home with his still-alive dog lying nearby. It was thought that Mark had died two weeks prior to the driver’s arrival.

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### Stories That Stick with You (continued)

First responders and police took over. Mary quickly arrived in Coquille and met with the police sergeant handling the situation. He warned Mary not to go into the rank-smelling house or visit her son's body at the morgue as there had been severe decomposition. In his prime Mark weighed 210 pounds and was 6'2", but at his death weighed 60 pounds.

As Mary and I were talking I saw Mark's dog sitting at the end of the long driveway looking down the street. It's an image and a story that'll stick with me.

Judy Jackson



**Saint John**

I ❤️ reading, but what to do with all these books I've already read?

Save your books for our  
**Rainy Day Used Book Sale**  
to be held Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.  
(Proceeds will benefit the St. John operating budget. Watch for more details.)

# October 2023

Sun                  Mon                  Tue                  Wed                  Thu                  Fri                  Sat

<p><i>1</i> <b>18 Pentecost</b> HE II</p>	<p><i>2</i> 7:30 AA</p>	<p><i>3</i> 6:30 ACOA 8 AA</p>	<p><i>4</i> 8 AA</p>	<p><i>5</i> 10:30 Conversations/ Listehing 6:30 Choir</p>	<p><i>6</i></p>	<p><i>7</i></p>
<p><b>8</b> <b>19 Pentecost</b>  HE II BAC Mtg @ 11</p>	<p><i>9</i> 7:30 AA</p>	<p><i>10</i> 6:30 ACOA 8 AA</p>	<p><i>11</i> 8 AA</p>	<p><i>12</i> 10:30 Conversations/ Listehing 6:30 Choir</p>	<p><i>13</i></p>	<p><i>14</i></p>
<p><i>15</i> <b>20 Pentecost</b>  HE II</p>	<p><i>16</i> 7:30 AA</p>	<p><i>17</i> 6:30 ACOA 8 AA</p>	<p><i>18</i> 8 AA</p>	<p><i>19</i> 10:30 Conversations/ Listehing 6:30 Choir</p>	<p><i>20</i></p>	<p><i>21</i></p>
<p><i>22</i> <b>21 Pentecost</b>  HE II</p>	<p><i>23</i> 7:30 AA</p>	<p><i>24</i> 6:30 ACOA 8 AA</p>	<p><i>25</i> 8 AA</p>	<p><i>26</i> 10:30 Conversations/ Listehing 6:30 Choir</p>	<p><i>27</i></p>	<p><i>28</i></p>
<p><b>29</b> <b>22 Pentecost</b>  HE II</p>	<p><i>30</i> 7:30 AA</p>	<p><i>31</i> 6:30 ACOA Halloween Party??</p>				

## October Birthdays

### Birthdays

**15: Cynthia Mohorko**

**16: Ginny Hall**

**22: Wailani Reep**

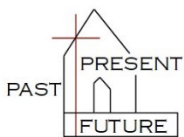
**27: Mary Garrett**



### LAY MINISTRY

**Can you participate in this important aspect of our worship? We need more folks willing to usher, to read the lessons and psalm, to lead the prayers of the people.**

**Please let the office or Fr. Doug know if you are available. Yes, training is provided — for FREE!**



Dear friends in Christ,

With all that's happened these past several years—a global pandemic, economic turmoil, countless changes in how we gather—I can't be more hopeful for the *future* of St. John Episcopal Church and our wonderful congregation. What kind of *future* do we have? Maybe we can answer that by reflecting on our *past*. We just celebrated our 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and that is quite an accomplishment.

How will "we" build on that accomplishment in the days and months ahead. We are a gifted community and our opportunities for ministry are many. We have neighbors looking for a church home, other neighbors longing to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and still other neighbors who are hungry for physical and spiritual sustenance. But to embrace this mission, we must give wholly of ourselves, believing that God will produce a harvest.

It's for this reason that our journey begins in the *present* with stewardship. Keeping this moment in mind, the theme for the Stewardship season is "*Past, Present, and Future.*" After dealing with the pandemic, we lost some momentum in rebuilding our community into a new season of ministry." We are in a different place, and this is our chance to see what God desires to accomplish next, in and through us. This is an invitation from God—

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(continued from page 7)

an invitation for us to give sacrificially and joyfully, trusting that God will use our gifts to do something wondrous, something unexpected.

Our stewardship campaign concludes on November 26<sup>th</sup>, Commitment Sunday. As we hear stories of stewardship this season—stories about what happens when followers of Jesus give wholly of themselves—consider how God might be calling you into a new place. Consider the role you might play in this, our next chapter. And as you discern, please know our gratitude for your generosity, your faithfulness, and your love. It's your response to God's gracious invitation that will make this next chapter our best one yet.

Laurea Arnoldt, Bishop's Warden

### Have You Ever Been Hungry —Really Hungry?

Many people here in Bandon are hungry. Did you know there are school-age children who do not have enough to eat? Yes, they get breakfast and lunch at the school cafeterias and maybe a take-home lunch on Friday afternoons, but what about their families? We participate in the ecumenical food pantry, which 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, shaving cream, safety razors, soap (bath and laundry), and women's sanitary products.

I had a call last week in the St. John office. A man announced that he was a new arrival to Bandon and needed diapers and formula. I referred him to the Ecumenical food pantry. We did not have information on our office bulletin board about the WIC program, which does provide many items for for **W**omen, **I**n-fants, and **C**hildren. These items may not be sufficient: diapers, formula, cereal, wipes, diaper rash ointment. Does anyone have information to add here?

Meanwhile, thank you for your generosity.

The collection basket is on a chair in the narthex, near the front entrance.

#### BEFORE THE SERVICE IN THE CHANCEL





**St. John Episcopal Church**

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www.facebook.com/St-  
John-Episcopal-Church-in-  
Bandon-Oregon-  
234749653862372**

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**Medical Loan Closet**

**Phone: 541-590-2443**

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**A Believe Out Loud  
Congregation**

**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**

**Clerk: Ginny Hall**

**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: Cynthia M0horko**

**Administrator: Virginia MacCallum**

Our Vicar, Fr. Doug, is generally in his church office Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. until about 4:00 p.m.



Pledge pledge  
pledge please.  
Books, books, books  
pleaser dpmate the  
books to the sale.

Pledge pledge  
pledge please.  
Books, books, books  
pleaser dpmate the  
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Pledge pledge  
pledge please.  
Books, books, books

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