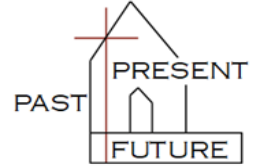


St. John's Journal

November 2023

Stewardship Update for 2024



*“Giving is more than a responsibility – it is a privilege;
more than an act of obedience – it is evidence of our faith.”*

| \$ Pledged | |
|------------|--|
| 70,000 | |
| 60,000 | |
| 50,000 | |
| 40,000 | |
| 30,000 | |
| 20,000 | |
| 19,000 | |
| 18,000 | |
| 17,615 | |
| 17,000 | |
| 16,000 | |
| 15,000 | |
| | |
| 10,000 | |
| | |
| 5,000 | |
| | |

Thank you to all who have promptly turned in your pledges of support for St. John's ministries in 2024! At press time, we have received pledges totaling **\$17,615**. By November 26, 2023 (the Sunday after Thanksgiving) we hope to have received all pledges for 2024.

Automatic Pledge Payments

If you utilize online banking, you can arrange for your bank to send your pledge payments on a regular basis using its "Bill Pay" or "Payment Center" feature.

Advanced Payments

All donations are recorded in the year they are received, so anyone wishing to pay all or a portion of your 2024 pledge early should send it in **after January 1, 2024**, to be credited as a charitable contribution for the 2024 tax year.

It's Not Too Late

If you have not received a pledge card and would like to contribute, please use the form below. Drop it in the offertory plate on Sunday or mail to: **St. John's Treasurer, P.O. Box 246, Bandon, OR 97411**

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2024 PLEDGE

As part of my/our commitment to support St. John's mission, and in gratitude for God's love, I/ we pledge an annual total of \$_____ for 2024. *This commitment may be revised at any time at my/our request.*)

NAME(S) _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL _____ 2ND PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

St. John Episcopal Church, 795 Franklin Avenue (PO Box 246) Bandon, OR 97411 * 541-347-2152

Fr. Doug's Iconic Column

I went for a visit with Debbie Griffith a number of days ago. When I arrived, I found that one of her friends was there visiting with her. She and Debbie have been members of a Bible Study. Her friend is a member of one of the evangelical churches.

At first, the conversation was focused upon Debbie and the difficulty she is having recovering from her back surgery. Part of that conversation was about how Debbie's faith in Christ helps her face the frustration and pain. Her friend and I sought to be encouraging. Over the course of the conversation, we could see Debbie's countenance rise. She went from looking weary to energized, from sadness to laughter.

At the same time, my spirits rose because something wonderful was happening. I am truly thankful that God granted that I be a part of it.

While the conversation began with Debbie's situation, it moved on to other matters of our spiritual lives. Debbie's friend and I were getting to know each other a bit and appreciating the depth of our spiritual lives. We talked some about the need for humility even while we might have some form of leadership in the church. Our eyes were to be upon God and doing what God called upon us to do rather than upon being up front and leading other people. I felt I was in the company of a kindred spirit.

But there was something else about this encounter that touched my heart. Debbie's friend is part of a church whose leaders seem to have little desire to interact with me. And on the other hand, I am part of a church whose members probably have little interest in having anything to do with that other church. And yet here we were having a splendid time sharing our faith in Christ.

It is so easy to focus upon the things that differ between us in the Church that we hardly ever see what we have in common. Quite often it is that we have simply written each other off and we don't even look. We keep each other at arm's length.

That day at Debbie's house I had not sought out this encounter, but the Spirit gave it to me as a gift. I am so thankful for it. It is my prayer that, despite our reluctance to reach out to people with whom we disagree, the Spirit will gift us with opportunities to see God in them and be mutually supportive in our faith. I also pray that we might find the courage to take a chance, reach across the divides and try to walk with our sisters and brothers in Christ.

This is what is needed in our country and our world. We need to develop compassion, empathy and appreciation for those with whom we differ. We may not change the things over which we differ, but we may learn that there is more there to see than what divides us.

Fr. Doug



November 2023

Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|
| | Every Thursday: 6:30 Choir Practice | | <i>1</i> 8:00 AA | <i>2</i> 10:30 Con-versations Class 5:30 BIG 5:30 ACOA | <i>3</i> | <i>4</i> |
| <i>5</i> All Saints/ All Souls HE II <i>Daylight Sav-</i> | <i>6</i> 7:30 AA | <i>7</i> 8:00 AA | <i>8</i> 8:00 AA | <i>9</i> 10:30 Con-versa-tions Class 5:30 BIG 5:30 ACOA | <i>10</i> | <i>11</i> |
| <i>12</i> 24 Pente-cost HE II Healing Svc | <i>13</i> 7:30 AA | <i>14</i> 8:00 AA | <i>15</i> 8:00 AA | <i>16</i> 10:30 Con-versa-tions Class 5:30 BIG 5:30 ACOA | <i>17</i> | <i>18</i> |
| <i>19</i> Thanks-giving Ob-served HE II | <i>20</i> 7:30 AA | <i>21</i> 8:00 AA | <i>22</i> 8:00 AA | <i>23</i> 3:00 Church Family Thanksgiving Dinner | <i>24</i> | <i>25</i> |
| <i>26</i> Last Pentecost Consecration Sunday | <i>27</i> 7:30 AA | <i>28</i> 8:00 AA | <i>29</i> 8:00 AA | <i>30</i> 10:30 Con-versa-tions Class 5:30 BIG 5:30 ACOA | | |

So Noted

The following was covered at the October 2023 BAC meeting:

Financial Report

- A. The "Thanksgiving Offering" will be on November 19.
- B. There will be no "Holiday Meals" this year. Do we want to do a Turkey giveaway?
- C. Pledge income through September 30th was \$11,294 below budget.
- D. An audit of the church's finances for 2022 was scheduled for 10/24.

Senior Warden/Fundraising

- A. Pie Sales will be deferred to 2024 to start with a booth at the Cranberry Festival. We will sell pie by the slice and whole pies. We will accept orders for Holiday Pies at that time forward.
- B. Rainy Day Book Sale will be held 12/9. Please bring books to be held in the library until the sale.
- C. 2024 Fundraising Calendar – book sale, food fundraiser (possibly St. Pat's Day?).
- D. Roof Grant Application deadline being researched.

Junior Warden

- A. Heat pump maintenance – need to have exterior rust removed and re-sprayed.
- B. Memorial Garden – Fr. Doug wants to order markers for couple already "scattered" in the garden. Finalizing marker design. Need to do a Blessing of the Garden. We also need to split funds for the upkeep of the Memorial Garden.

Upcoming Events

All Saints/Souls to be November 5

Thanksgiving Canonical Offering November 19

Respectfully submitted,

Laurea Arnoldt, Bishop's Warden

St. John Family Thanksgiving Dinner

Please come and join some of us who are at loose ends for Thanksgiving Dinner. We will decide on a menu and who will bring what for a scrumptious feast.

This will be on Thanksgiving Day in Theresa Hall. Please let Kay Marino know whether you might join us at 3:00 for dinner. Come earlier and visit!

From the Junior Warden

Just a reminder . . .

St. John has a receptacle for can/bottle collection. It's labeled and in the kitchen by the refrigerator. Periodically, the collection will be taken in for cash, which will go toward the Church's general fund. Thanks for your contributions!



*Please donate your books to the St. John's
Rainy Day Used Book Sale
to take place on:
Saturday, December 9th, 10-3
Drop off dates to be announced.
St. John Episcopal Church - 795 Franklin - Bandon*

November Birthdays

10: Debbie Griffith

30: Tim Pearce



Musings from Denise

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD

People who contribute to a church fall into two categories: Dues Payers and Church Givers. Some people view pledging as paying dues for membership in the church – an obligation to the institution, rather than a desire to further God's work. They give from a sense of duty and not love.

The pledges and other offerings sought at St. John's are gifts given with a heart of gratitude for God's many blessings. They are a means of joyfully acknowledging that all we have comes from God. Returning a portion of our income to expand God's work is part of our walk with Christ, and every gift, both large and small, from every person counts. Together, we can support our church's mission to heal, teach, reach out, and be good stewards.

Psalm 136 begins: *"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever."* Twenty-six verses outline how God has demonstrated his goodness from the moment of creation to the settlement of Israel in what is now the Middle East. According to the *Book of Common Prayer's* translation, every verse ends with: "for his mercy endures forever."

Other translations replace "mercy" with LOVE, FAITHFULNESS, LOVING-KINDNESS, GRACIOUS or STEADFAST LOVE. They all remind us that however unworthy we may become through thoughts, words or deeds, God's love for us never fails, and for that we can be eternally grateful. It is a dark reality that we sometimes forget to be grateful until the month of November gets us back on track with a holiday dedicated to thankfulness.

It is not by chance that our stewardship campaign finishes at this time of year. Nor is it by chance that the Diocese takes up a "Thanksgiving Offering" from all the churches (on November 19 this year). This offering is distributed through grants that enable local faith communities to serve people in need through projects such as food pantries, community gardens, medical clinics, and houseless shelters. It is not meant to compete with our local church's solicitation of funds for the coming year, it is an opportunity to help multiply God's blessings.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Don't Forget!!

**Before you go to bed Saturday, November 4,
SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR.**

Yes, we are returning to Standard Time for the winter.





Oh...
 When the
 weather outside is frightful
 and staying in is so delightful
 just grab a good book and sit,
 let it rain, let it snow, let it blow.

Find the perfect reasons to stay tucked up inside at the

St. John's Rainy Day Used Book Sale.
 Saturday, December 9th
 10 a.m – 3 p.m



St. John Episcopal Church
 795 Franklin, Bandon
 Browse, enjoy holiday treats
 & bid on exciting raffle baskets.

LAY MINISTRY

Can you participate in this important aspect of our worship? We need more folks willing to usher, to read the lessons and lead the psam, 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!

Time to Update!

We do not have everyone's birthday or wedding anniversary date. No! You do not have to tell us the year of your birth! Please let the office know of the day and month for each — for each family member as well. We want to be able to celebrate you at that time.



St. John Episcopal Church

**795 Franklin Avenue
(PO 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**

Medical Loan Closet

Phone: 541-590-2443



**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

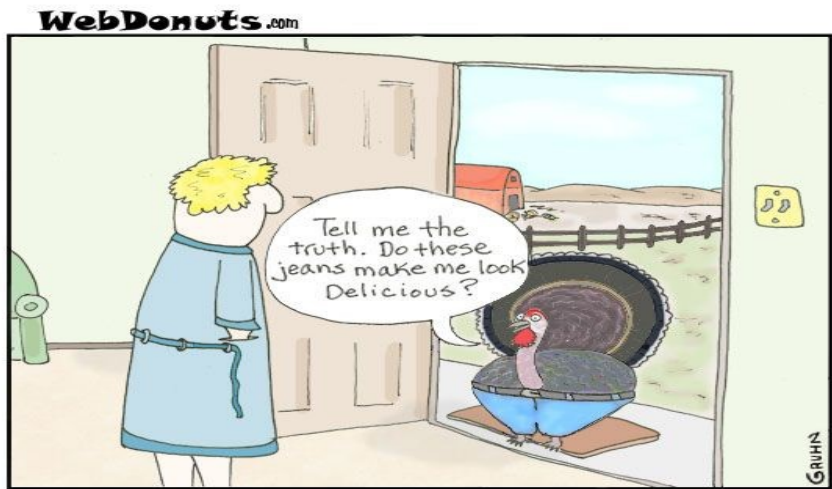
CHURCH STAFF

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



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