

# St. John's Journal

## January 2024



### *Fr. Doug's Iconic Column*

During the Fall, we held a financial stewardship drive at St. John. It gave everyone an opportunity to express their commitment to the life of the church through financial support. But there is more needed to make this congregation happen than just what money can buy. Much of the life of this congregation flows from the ways that individuals give of their time.

What is most obvious are the various roles people play on Sunday mornings. We have Eucharistic Ministers who assist at the altar. There are Lectors who read the scripture lessons and Intercessors who lead us in the Prayers of the People. There are usher/greeters who welcome people, take of the offering and have the offerings brought to the altar. There are also the choir members bless us with song. Maybe not quite so visible are those who provide a little bit of food hospitality for Coffee Hour. Even more tucked away are the members of the Altar Guild who make certain everything is physically set up for worship. And then there are those who occasionally provide an additional adult presence with Maggie when she hosts Braydon for Sunday School.

There is also a lot more that goes on besides Sunday morning. On a nuts-and-bolts level, there are members of the church who serve on the church board, the Bishop's Advisory Council (BAC), which is not just an opportunity to take part in policy decisions of our congregation but also an opportunity to learn more about what is going on behind the scenes. We have representatives that go to our Diocesan Convention and to our Southcoast Convocation of Episcopal Churches. We also have those who care for our building and the yard around it.

The commitment of time by our members is not limited to just our internal life. There are those who give of their time to help people through the Medical Loan Closet. There are those who are a part of the prayer chain who regularly pray for those who have requested prayer for themselves or for others whom they know. We also have individuals who seek to make a difference in our community and the world by their involvement in outside groups like Bandon Inclusivity Group (BIG), and Shoreline Education for Awareness (SEA), plus others.

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## *Fr. Doug's Iconic Column* (continued from page 1)

We give thanks to all of those who have already committed themselves to serving our congregation and reaching out to make a difference in other people's lives. As the new year begins, please consider how you might commit yourself to the inward and outward workings of our congregation. It may be a recommitment to what you are already doing, and it may be a commitment to something new for you.

This year we are especially looking for people who would be interested in serving on the BAC or being a delegate. We are looking for people who would be interested in supporting Maggie in Sunday School. The Medical Loan Closet would certainly be helped if we could find one or two more people to serve their clients. The reality is that in all these different ways that our people serve each other and the world around us we will always welcome new people who want to step up and make a difference.

At our Annual Meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup>, we will have an opportunity to give an expression of our new and/or renewed commitments of our time and talents to the life of St. John and beyond. In the meantime, if you have any questions about opportunities to serve, please do not hesitate to speak with me or with someone you know that is already involved.

May we make known the love of God through our acts of love and service.

Fr. Doug



### **ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 28**

We will be holding our Annual Meeting on Sunday January 28<sup>th</sup> following worship. We will be hearing several reports, electing two members of the BAC and two delegates to Diocesan Convention and the Southcoast Convocation and two alternate delegates. We will also be launching a capital campaign to raise funds so that we can replace our roof this coming Spring. Please make every effort to be present for this important meeting.

### **SPECIAL OFFERING FOR THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION**

On January 28<sup>th</sup> we will be receiving a special offering to support Theological Education in the Episcopal Church. The past couple years we have sent this money to Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, California, where Fr. Doug had the privilege to take several courses toward his Master of Divinity degree. Any loose plate offerings that day will go toward that offering as well as any offering specially designated for "Theological Education." Please consider supporting the education of future clergy.

### **FROM SALLY GLUNT, JUNIOR WARDEN, AND MAGGIE LOWERY**

McKay's receipts are collected in the drawer of the cabinet in the hallway.  
Cans and bottles are collected in the bin in the kitchen.

Proceeds from both of these projects support our general operating budget and every contribution helps.

Thank you!

## So Noted!

### FINANCE

· Our canonical Thanksgiving Offering of \$505 was sent to the Diocese. This was a significant increase over what has been sent in the past several years.

· The proposed budget for 2024 was reviewed. Operating income is expected to come from pledges (75%), open offerings (12%), fundraisers (9%) and facility usage by outside groups (4%). Expenses will be substantially the same as in 2023. The gap between Income and Expenses is projected to be a shortfall of \$18,867. Line items for hospitality and outreach have been eliminated from the operating budget. We will rely on donations of paper goods (napkins, paper towels, toilet paper, etc.).

· A complete roof replacement is needed in 2024. The BAC reviewed bids received earlier this year (averaging \$63,000) and available money in our Capital Fund (\$17,000). We will submit a grant request to the Diocese and initiate a "Raise the Roof" Capital Campaign with our congregation beginning in early 2024. We hope to commit to a roof contractor in March, begin work in May and complete it by early June 2024.

**FUNDRAISING:** We raised \$828 from our inaugural Rainy-Day Book Sale! During this sale, several shoppers shared positive comments about this Sale and wondered if/when St. John will be having another similar event.

### CALENDAR

· Dates and times for December services were reviewed: Longest Night (December 21); Advent IV and Lessons & Carols (both on December 24); observance of St. John's Feast Day (transferred to December 31).


· January 14, 2024: Next BAC meeting.

· January 28, 2024: Our Annual Meeting will follow the 9:30 a.m. Worship Service. Elections will be held for two BAC positions (two-year terms), and Delegates and Alternates for the 2024 Convocation meetings and the Annual Convention.

· January 28, 2024 is also the designated date for a Special Offering to be collected for Theological Education.

· February 24, 2024: A Vestry/BAC training day will be held at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Coos Bay from 10:00am-4:00pm. Lunch will be provided, and the cost of lunch is \$10/person.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurea Arnoldt, Bishop's Warden



Periodically we update our prayer list, removing names if we have no recent update or contact for the person. This is important so we can continue to pray mindfully for those who are suffering.

If your loved one was inadvertently removed, please do not hesitate to contact the church office so they can be added back on (or write their name on the clipboard outside the office). Thank you for understanding and for your intercessory prayers.

*Musings from Denise***ON THE THRESHOLD OF A NEW YEAR**

The first month of the year is named after Janus, the god of beginnings and endings, doors, gates, and transitions in Roman mythology. He is portrayed with two faces – one looking to the future and one looking to the past. (Something we all should do more often than once a year.)

At our Annual Meeting at the end of this month, we will pass through one of those transitional gates as we sum up what we accomplished in 2023 and what we hope to accomplish in 2024. Most people tend to look at the recent past and near future as we consider where we've been and where we're headed, but we should take a longer view to put current world events in better perspective.

**200 YEARS AGO**

In 1824, "Bandon" did not exist. There was a native settlement along the Coquille River, located only one hundred miles north of the Mexican border (today's Oregon-California border).

**100 YEARS AGO**

In 1924, St. John By-the-Sea bore little resemblance to the rambling church campus we know today. The original church completed in 1895 had been moved in 1921 to its present location on land donated by the family of the late Rev. William Horsfall, first Vicar of St. John. (That structure was destroyed by fire in 1936 and rebuilt at the same location.) Most of the pre-fire church records were destroyed, but we know that from April 1922 to May 1926, the Rev. Arthur W. Bell served Bandon, Coquille, Port Orford, and Gardiner (plus Empire and Reedsport by special arrangement).

Elsewhere, the Roaring Twenties were in full swing, and some of the headlines from 1924 seem very current. Paradoxically, in the same year that the Statue of Liberty was declared a national monument ("*Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free...*"), efforts were made to restrict entry into our country. Due to the huge influx of immigrants from war-ravaged lands following the end of World War I, quotas were set for immigrants from Europe, and the "Asian Exclusion Act" banned persons from certain Asian countries altogether. In Germany, Adolf Hitler wrote *Mein Kampf* (*My Struggle*) while serving jail time for his involvement in the Nazi Party's failed coup d'état. Italian fascist Benito Mussolini ordered the suppression of opposition newspapers.

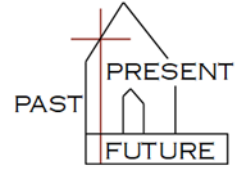
**25 YEARS AGO**

Not only was 1999 on the threshold of a new millennium, but it was a transitional year for St. John. At the end of April, the Rev. David Sweeney (who served St. John and St. Christopher's, Port Orford) accepted a call to Calvary Parish in Seaside. The Rev. Canon Barbara Mudge ("Rev Mum") became St. John's Interim Priest-in-Charge in May. The ECW hosted a very successful Women's Spirituality Day for the Diocese (proving small rural churches have what it takes), and a Worship Committee was organized to increase lay participation in planning liturgy. (It was the era of "Total Ministry.") A new six-member choir was formed. Services were held at 8 and 10 on Sunday mornings, 11:30 on Wednesdays, and at Heritage Place (now Pacific View Assisted Living) twice a month on Thursdays.

After Fr. David vacated the vicarage, deep cleaning and numerous repairs were required so the property could be rented. Two new offices on the west side of the church and restrooms on the east side were constructed by Ralph Leshin in July and dedicated on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The old office was converted into a library/classroom. Rough plans for re-landscaping around the church were drawn up by John and his son, Steve Mudge. St. John's Cooperative Pre-School opened in Theresa Hall (decorated in primary colors) on September 13<sup>th</sup>, and its teacher and her husband became the Vicarage's first tenants. A Local Improvement District placed a lien on the church's property for widening and paving Edison Avenue, which required the removal of a row of trees in the right-of-way.

**TODAY**

May 2024 be the year the world transitions from war to peace and focuses more on looking after God's creation and one another.



**Dollars Pledged**

70,000	
60,000	
50,000	
40,000	
30,000	
25,000	
20,000	
19,000	
18,000	
17,615	
17,000	
16,000	
15,000	
10,000	
5,000	

## 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.”*

– William Arthur Ward, 20<sup>th</sup> Century American Motivational Writer

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. See <https://stjohnsbandon.org/contribute/> for details.

### 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 inside this newsletter. Drop it in the offertory plate on Sunday or mail to:

**St. John’s Treasurer, P.O. Box 246, Bandon, OR 97411**

*Thank you for supporting St. John’s Mission!*

## January Birthday

### 2: Gail Pray



# January 2024

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

	<i>1</i> 7:30 AA	<i>2</i> 8:00 AA	<i>3</i> 8:00 AA	<i>4</i> 10:30 C0n- vers. On Healng 6:30 Choir Practice	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> 1st Sun. after Epiph- any HE II	<i>8</i> 7:30 AA	<i>9</i> 8:00 AA	<i>10</i> 8:00 AA	<i>11</i> 10:30 C0nvers. On Healng 6:30 Choir Practice	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> 2nd Sun. after Epiphany HE II	<i>15</i> 7:30 AA	<i>16</i> 8:00 AA	<i>17</i> 8:00 AA	<i>18</i> 3:30 BIG/10:30 C0nvers. On Healng 6:30 Choir	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> 3rd Sun. after Epiphany HE II	<i>22</i> 7:30 AA	<i>23</i> 8:00 AA	<i>24</i> 8:00 AA	<i>25</i> 10:30 C0nvers. On Healng 6:30 Choir Practice	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 4th Sun. after Epiphany HE II/ Healing	<i>29</i> 7:30 AA	<i>30</i> 8:00 AA	<i>31</i> 8:00 AA	ANNUAL MEETING 1-28 AT 10:30 A.M.		

**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**

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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.

**FEED MY SHEEP**

**So Jesus asked us to do. We can respond by our donations to the Ecumenical Food Pantry, which assists those who are hungry and in need.**

**A basket in the narthex is there for your donations. In addition to food, things like tooth paste, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant, and shaving needs are welcome.**

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