

St. John's Journal

March 2024

Fr. Doug's Iconic Column



This Saturday, March 2, Emmanuel Parish in Coos Bay will be offering a showing of "The Philadelphia Eleven," a documentary about the first women ordained to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church. It begins at Noon and we are all invited.

We have entered the season of Lent. To mark the time, we have returned to the use of Holy Eucharist Rite I. Several people have commented on how meaningful it is for them. It is certainly more penitential, especially since we are also using the Penitential Rite at the beginning of the service. It is also very familiar for those who grew up in the Episcopal Church and were used to hearing these words every Sunday.

Lent is a time of preparation as we make our way with Jesus to Jerusalem, to his suffering and death, and ultimately to his resurrection. It certainly is a time to reflection upon what the Son of God went through for our benefit. It can also be a time to find how his suffering connects God to our suffering. I have put together a booklet of "The Way of the Cross," the Stations of the Cross, traveling with Jesus to the cross, beginning with him being condemned to death. It uses the order found in the Prayer Book and couples it with images of the Stations. While we do have the Stations in our sanctuary, it is difficult to travel from one to the next with the pews in the way. (Well... maybe the way of the cross should be difficult). So, this booklet allows you to travel with Jesus, and he with you, in your own home. Please pick up a copy at the church if you do not have one already.

Holy Week comes at the end of the month. We will celebrate Palm/Passion Sunday on the 24th. We will have a Maundy Thursday service on the 28th at 4:30pm and a Good Friday service on the 29th at 4:30pm.

As we prepare for Easter, some churches hold the long Easter Vigil well into the wee hours of the morning. Some have an opportunity for people to take an hour or two and sit in the sanctuary in vigil, in prayer, throughout Holy Saturday. I have not heard much interest among our folk for either option. So instead, I am preparing a modified Easter Vigil that can be used at home on that Saturday. It could be used in one long sitting or multiple shorter times throughout the day. It has multiple scripture readings telling the length of sal

(continued on page 2)

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

vation history culminating in the resurrection of Jesus, followed by a renewal of baptismal vows. This booklet will be made available in a week or so.

In your use of these resources, you are certainly welcome to come to the church and use them in the sanctuary if you wish. Whatever choices we make for our own devotions, I pray that we all have a Holy Lent.

Fr. Doug



So, Noted!

The Bishop's Advisory Committee was called to order and the minutes from January's regular BAC Meeting, the Annual Meeting, and the Special BAC Meeting were approved.

In the Financial report, Denise announced \$330 was received for the Medical Loan Closet, the Theological Education collection was \$176, and the Sweet Fund had a net loss of \$165.. Fundraising had a gain of \$25 from the last book sale and \$35 in bottle recycling. Yay!

The Senior Warden submitted the Trustees' Grant request for final approval from the BAC. It was approved. As an update: The grant request was sent to the Diocese!!

The Junior Warden had us take a quick field trip to the front garden to look at the latest garden clean-up. It looks much better with more to come.

The Vicar has confirmed a Lenten Bible Study to commence at the Thursday 10:30 am group. They meet in the Library.

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

March 2nd at Emmanuel will be a showing of *The Philadelphia 11* video at noon.

"In an act of civil disobedience, a group of women and their supporters organize their ordination to become Episcopal priests in 1974. The Church of the Advocate in Philadelphia welcomes them, but change is no small task. The women are harassed, threatened and banned from stepping on church property.

In this feature-length documentary film, we meet the women who succeed in building a movement that transforms an age-old institution, and challenges the very essence of patriarchy within Christendom."

March 10-BAC

March 24 Palm Sunday

March 28 Maundy Thursday 5:30pm

March 29 Good Friday 5:30 pm (Special Offering for Jerusalem & the Middle East)

March 31 Easter Sunday

Respectfully submitted, Laurea Arnoldt, Bishop's Warden

Musings from Denise

HOW DO OTHERS SEE US?

A satirical student magazine called “Ship of Fools” was launched at a London Bible College in the late 1970’s. It sank after only ten issues, but was relaunched in 1998 as a website, and is still sailing along at <https://shipoffools.com>. Its aim, according to Editor Simon Jenkins, ‘is to help Christians be self-critical and honest about the failings of Christianity, as we believe honesty can only strengthen faith.’ One feature of this online magazine is called “Mystery Worshipper,” in which a volunteer attends a church where they are not known and reports their experience by answering a standard questionnaire touching on the type of service and how well-attended it was, the comfort of the pews, the pre-service atmosphere and post-service hospitality, the music, how welcoming the people were, the length and substance of the sermon, whether the service was “stiff-upper-lip, happy clappy, or what?”

From time to time, it is helpful to approach our worship services as though we ourselves are first-time visitors. What can we do to make the experience more welcoming and meaningful for our visitors? We come to church each Sunday and on High Holy Days, driving past a sign that affirms we welcome everyone. We worship God in accordance with the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer, we listen to scripture and a homily and sing hymns, then share a cup of coffee and a little conversation before going out into the world to live, work and play until next Sunday. It’s easy to presume all Christians (or at least all Episcopalians) do this in a comparable way. But every congregation has its own unique customs (like the way we sit through the postlude), which sometimes make it hard for visitors to follow along and feel welcome.

For instance, one Mystery Worshipper (MW for short) attended **St. Paul Lutheran Church** in Phoenix, Az, where she was greeted in the narthex by a few people and by the pastor after she sat down. After confirming she was not Lutheran, the pastor told her she would not be welcome to receive communion. MW expected that but was perplexed by what took place after the collection was taken up. A group of women came up to the baptismal font, walked in a circle around it, and then returned to their seats. No explanation was given. [A reader later suggested that they were bringing mite boxes forward.] But at the time, it was “as if a veil had descended” between MW and the service. She suddenly felt out of place and left as communion was being distributed.

Other MWs reported being distracted by the worship party’s attire: a pastor wearing an alb with a cincture that had one end dragging on the floor, and white sneakers with a green Nike logo; a couple altar servers wearing red sneakers. These may seem trivial to some, but they also became a veil of separation for those visitors.

At **St Peter’s, Frogwell**, Chippenham, Wiltshire, UK (Church of England) a lady welcomed the MW just inside the entrance and asked his name and where he was from. After the service, MW was approached by the same lady, who remembered his name and introduced MW to someone else who took him under her wing as coffee was served and introduced him to other people at the table. MW “got the impression that the friendliness wasn’t for show, and that people genuinely care for each other at this church.”

That is, I think, what we all hope visitors to St. John will see: all are genuinely welcome.

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 3rd Sun. of Lent HE I	4 5:30 ACOA 7:30 AA	5 8 AA	6 8 AA	7 10:30 Class on Listening 6:30 Choir Practice	8	9
10 4th Sun. of Lent HE I & Healing	11 5:30 ACOA 7:30 AA	12 8 AA	13 8 AA	14 10:30 Class on Listening 6:30 Choir	15	16
17 5th Sun. of Lent HE I	18 5:30 ACOA 7:30 AA	19 8 AA	20 8 AA	21 10:30 Class on Listening 6:30 Choir	22	23
24 Palm Sunday HE	25 5:30 ACOA 7:30 AA	26 8 AA	27 8 AA	28 Mundy Thursday 4:30 Service 6:30 Choir	29 Good Friday 4:30 Service	30
31 Easter Day HE II						



Treasurer's Report*

"Raise the Roof" Campaign

Amount Pledged	\$10,075
Amount Received	\$ 8,025
Due by March 31	\$ 2,050

Operating Fund

February Income	\$3,390
February Expenses	- 4,686
Net (Shortfall)	(\$1,296)

YTD Income	\$13,786
YTD Expenses	- 5,547
YTD Net Income	\$ 8,239

**As of February 26, 2024*

WORSHIP THIS MONTH

There will be Holy Week services this month:

Mar. 20: Maindy Thursday at 4:30 p.m.

Mar. 21: Good Friday at 4:30 p.m.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

- 12: Wailani Reep
- 20: Laorea Arnoldt
- 22: Robin Hanna
- 27: Mike Fitzgerald

Anniversaries

- 17: Sally & Tom Glunt
- 29: Gail Pray & Stephan Beauton



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,

Jennifer Mello, & Michelle Felkins

Convention Delegates: Laurea Arnoldt & Jeffrey Clark

Alternates: Kay Marino & Denise Skillman

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."