

St. John's Journal

Bandon-by-the-Sea, Oregon

September 2024



No Labor Labor Day Fundraiser

Each year we raise funds to support the operating expenses of our church.

This year, in order to avoid the hard work of typical fundraisers (like rummage or pie sales) we ask you to...

Just Write a Check



With your generous donations we hope to raise \$3,000 by Labor Day, Monday, September 2nd

Please write "No Labor Day Fundraiser" on the memo line of your check or on a note attached to cash donations.

Donations can be brought to a Sunday service or mailed to us at St. John Episcopal Church, PO Box 246, Bandon, 97411

Many thanks!

So, Noted!

The Bishop's Advisory Committee (BAC) met on Sunday, August 11, 2024.

Financial Report: All accounts have been balanced.

- The Medical Loan Closet received \$120 in donations.
- The Memorial Garden Fund received a \$1,000 donation and spent \$9.98.
- The general Memorial Fund received a donation of \$25.
- The Pass-Through Gift Fund increased by \$127 in July; no disbursements have been made yet.
- The Money Market account had no activity except for interest income.
- Investments gained in July by \$87.55 in the Morgan Stanley Account and the Sweet Fund had a net gain of \$142.69.
- Operating Profit and Loss: Fundraising income is budgeted at \$3,000 for 2024. We have received \$514.16 from passive sources like McKay's receipts and bottle returns. **Be ready with your check-books as we are about to start the NO-LABOR, Labor Day Fundraiser.**
- We are currently looking at whether we need increased cyber security for St. John. We will keep you informed.

Junior Warden Report: The heat pumps will be serviced this Fall and we will have the technician repair the exterior grill for protection from rust.

We expect to be finished with the roof by September.

Vicar's Report: We are working through some office reorganization and upgrading the two computers we have. This will allow more than one person to be utilizing the office at the same time.

An interment occurred last week (the second since the Memorial Garden was made available). Denise Skillman and Laurea Arnoldt attended as witnesses as well as the family.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurea Arnoldt, Bishop's Warden



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/1 Helen Slack-Miller

9/6 Kay Marino

9/22 Bob Graville

(If your name should be on this list, please contact the office so we can update our records and honor your day when it comes around again.)

Fr. Doug's Iconic Column

The last two months or so have been a heavy time. With Ginger's death, our lives have been shaken up. We have lost a beloved companion. We have lost that sense of humor, that voice in the choir, that consistent work as Administrator for our church.

When a good number of us stepped in to help make sense of the chaos in her house, we were let in to see part of who she was that she did not want anyone to see. It was devastating to think that she lived that way. We hurt for her. But in a letter she was honest to admit that she lived like "Miss Piggy." But while going through all the stuff that became part of several large dumpster loads of garbage, we started discovering treasures. We started discovering parts of who she was that we had no clue about. We knew she liked to sing, but how many of us knew that in her younger years she was a belly dancer and a chimney sweep?

The hard work that several of us did to go through her stuff yielded important gifts. Judy went through countless photographs and was able to put together an amazing pictorial display of her life for us to learn from and enjoy at her memorial service. Denise spent countless hours going through Ginger's financial and legal records so that she could present the family with some very useful information for settling her estate.

Others made special efforts to help put together a wonderful offering of food for the reception that created an atmosphere of fellowship. It led Ginger's brother Butch to say to me afterwards that we had made him and his family feel that we were family to them. It is too bad that they had to head back to Texas, because I am sure we would have loved to have kept them. Butch's daughter Rachel was so impressed with us and the place where we live that she was really interested in coming back. For one thing, the Oregon coast is cooler in August than it is in Texas.

We had numerous people at the service from the wider community. One of them said to me that she had been away from church for a good number of years, but she was now seriously thinking about coming back to church, that she might be back for a visit in a few weeks. I think Ginger would be pleased if that were one of the results of her dying, a revived spiritual life for one of her friends. In death there is life. In difficult times there are gifts. Even when there is sorrow there can be joy. Ginger's Memorial Service and Interment of some of her ashes in our Memorial Garden was a time of joy. May we look for the gifts of life even in the most difficult of times.

One of Ginger's wishes was that her ashes, along with the ashes of a few of her pets, be scattered at sea. Steve Garrett offered to take her out on one of his fishing trips. He reported that she was returned to the sea "right next to a humpback whale." I bet she loved that.

Fr. Doug



MAKING CONNECTIONS



The St. John's Medical Loan Closet connects people with the durable medical equipment they need to recover from accidents and surgery and to manage all sorts of disabilities. Our equipment helps clients accomplish everyday tasks: moving around their homes, going to the grocery store or to doctor appointments - getting out and about. Sometimes clients with limited mobility want to attend special events like graduations and weddings. Our equipment supports their participation and enhances their ability to connect with families, friends and their community.

Recently, the Bandon Library director contacted the MLC to offer us a balloon tire beach walker that they received as a donation. MLC volunteer, Kathy Webb, knowing that the walker was too big for our limited space, instead offered it to the Bandon Visitors Center. The folks there were thrilled to receive it and will hold it for any visitors who need help getting out onto the sand, improving the chance that they can directly connect with and enjoy Bandon's lovely beaches.

OUTREACH OUR WAY

St. John's **Medical Loan Closet** is the most active and visible form of outreach we offer to the community, but it directly involves only a small team of dedicated volunteers (and could certainly use more!) It is self-funding through donations from grateful borrowers of equipment.

Most churches have an "Outreach" line item in their operating budget or hold special fundraisers for specific outreach projects. Not listed as outreach in our operating budget, but nevertheless intended as outreach, are monies we pay the City of Bandon to help low income families pay their utility bills, donations of cash and goods to various local food banks, and sharing our facilities with outside organizations that target the wider community.

So while our operating budget provides for cleaning, maintaining and repairing our building and keeping it and the grounds attractive, that's not

just for us. It's our way of reaching out and welcoming the community into our church home.

Some groups like **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** and **Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA)** have been using St. John's facilities for many years.

A new group, **ADAPT** now stages a team in our parking lot on the second Tuesday of the month to provide medical and mental health services and information about community resources to people close to where they live or spend time. (They will likely move into Theresa Hall when the weather turns nasty.)

ACOA meets Monday at 5:30 p.m. **AA** meets Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday starting at 7:30 p.m.

ADAPT gathers between 9 and Noon on the second Tuesday.

These and other groups donate to help offset the cost of their facilities use.

Musings from Denise

Wisdom and Ignorance

Have you ever taken a word association test? One person says a word, and another responds with the first word that comes to mind. Certain words in our vocabulary have long been paired: cream and sugar, black and white, rich and poor, cat and dog. But word associations often go further. For example, if I say “cat” you *could* say “dog,” but your response might just as easily be “fur” or “fleas” or something totally different. There’s really no wrong answer. Teachers use this test to expand students’ vocabulary of synonyms and antonyms, and psychologists use this test to try to understand how we think. You can even play this game on your own – think of any word and then list all the words that immediately come to mind.

On the rare occasions I get to write a homily, I use a variation of this technique. I begin by reading the scriptures a time or two (including verses before and after those assigned by the lectionary to gain some context). Then I take a walk while I go through a word association process. Sometimes a word will pop into my mind, but most often it is an image.



The most recent occasion involved the personification of Wisdom in Proverbs 9:1-6. She is described as a hostess at a fine banquet. Several images came to mind for me. The first was my own mother, who was wise in many ways, and was also an excellent cook who graciously hosted many tantalizing feasts. So, I could easily impose her face on the biblical Wisdom figure.

But the second image was a painting that has haunted me since high school. Our assignment was to select a painting at the San Diego Museum of Art, research and write about it. I chose a work ascribed to a Spanish Baroque painter, Jusepe de Ribera (1591-1652) – not because I liked his style, but precisely because I didn’t and wanted to learn more about it. At the time, it bore the title “*Sybil*” and portrayed the solitary figure of an aged prophetess. Little was known about the painting, save that it was donated to the museum in 1931.

It was not until the painting was cleaned some years after this assignment that the pale figure of a crying child appeared beneath Sybil’s right hand. The painting was quickly re-titled “*Allegory of Wisdom and Ignorance.*” When I saw the painting after it was cleaned, I almost didn’t recognize it. With or without the child, this image of Wisdom is nothing like the Wisdom described in Proverbs 9, whose counterpart (if you read to the end of the proverb) is not “Ignorance,” but a woman named “Folly,” an adulteress who sits at her front door and invites passersby to a meager meal of stolen water and food to be eaten in secret.

From time to time, I’ve looked for information about this painting and the artist. Imagine my surprise in 2016 when I found an article titled “*San Diego Gets a Ribera, Finally.*” How could that be true? I saw one there myself over 50 years ago, or so I thought. It turns out to have been a workshop piece, not from Ribera’s own hand. The 2016 article was referring to “*St. James the Minor*” (1632), which had long been considered a workshop piece until cleaning revealed the artist’s signature. Too bad that a signature was not revealed when the allegory painting was cleaned. I now know less about the painting than I did in high school and will never shake its image from my mind.

ROOF REPLACED AND READY FOR ANOTHER 40 WINTERS



By the time you read this, the roof project should be complete. The old chimney was removed, the steeple and cross were repaired, six sheets of plywood were replaced to seal leaks (*five over the north side of the sanctuary and one on the northwest corner of Theresa Hall*), and all the roof shingles were replaced by Rich Rayburn Roofing. All that remained as of August 20th, was remounting the steeple, which requires a lift to hoist the steeple and crew to the roof top.

These photos show work in progress. The leak over the sanctuary was by the yellow ladder, where two roof lines join.





Celebrating the Life of Virginia MacCallum 1936-2024

More than 50 people gathered on August 22nd to bid farewell to Virginia MacCallum, who we all knew as “Ginger.” The Celebration of Life and Holy Eucharist took place inside the church, followed by committal of her ashes in St. John’s Memorial Scatter Garden and a fine reception in Theresa Hall put on by the ladies of the church.

The Chapel Choir of St. John sang “Oceans and Stars,” one of Ginger’s favorite songs, and 10 present and former members of Sea Breeze Harmony, an acapella group to which Ginger once belonged, sang “That’s What Friends Are For.”

If you were unable to attend the service or want to listen again to the music and remembrances, visit one of the links below. (Note: you may have to cut and paste the link into the URL of your browser if Control-Click doesn’t work.)

Link to our YouTube Page:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRwGHMgSsbyKdTVEu-JDapA>

Link to our Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/St-John-Episcopal-Church-in-Bandon-Oregon-234749653862372>



Ginger’s family looks on as Fr. Doug scatters Ginger’s ashes (mixed with her pets). From left to right: Crucifer Denise Skillman, the Rev. Doug Hale, Ginger’s brother Butch, his wife Emma, their son-in-law David Shaye and their daughter Rachel Shaye.

September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 (15th after Pentecost) <i>Labor Free Fundraiser Ends</i> 9:30a Holy Eucharist	2 LABOR DAY 5:30p ACOA 7:30p AA	3 7:30p AA	4 7:30p AA	5 10:30 Conversation Group 4p Choir Party @ Mohorko's	6	7
8 (16th after Pentecost) 9:30a Holy Eucharist BAC	9 5:30p ACOA 7:30p AA	10 9a-12p ADAPT 7:30p AA	11 PATRIOT DAY 7:30p AA	12 10:30 Conversation Group 6:30p Choir	13	14
15 (17th after Pentecost) 9:30a Holy Eucharist	16 5:30p ACOA 7:30p AA	17 10-12 SEA Board 7:30p AA	18 7:30p AA	19 10:30 Conversation Group 6:30p Choir	20 NEWS DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER	21
22 (18th after Pentecost) 9:30a Holy Eucharist	23 5:30p ACOA 7:30p AA	24 7:30p AA	25 7:30p AA	26 10:30 Conversation Group 6:30p Choir	27	28 11 a Harris Funeral
29 (19th after Pentecost) 9:30a Holy Eucharist, Healing & Forgiveness Service	30 5:30p ACOA 7:30p AA					

SOUTH COAST CONVOCATION NEWS NOT YOUR GRANNY'S BIBLE STUDY

Delegates who will represent the churches of our convocation at next month's Diocesan Convention met via Zoom on August 24th. The primary purpose of the meeting was to preview the proposed diocesan budget for 2025, but this was also a time to learn about what is going on in each of our churches.

St. Andrews (Florence) is celebrating its 70th Birthday and has installed new windows in the sanctuary. They've also expanded their music program. Ardella Edwards is in discernment for the diaconate.

St. Timothy (Brookings) has recently confirmed or received 19 people attracted by St. Timothy's efforts to feed and care for the needy. An advocacy team now meets there weekly. Their community garden celebrated its third anniversary with a festival this year.

St. John (Bandon) reported on our new roof and memorial scatter garden, and recalled the graveside service honoring the memory of Timothy Pettis, murdered in Coos Bay 100 years ago.

Emmanuel (Coos Bay) has also finished replacing its roof. They are handling bookkeeping for St. James (Coquille), and providing financial advice. Emmanuel's Relief Nursery is growing in popularity.

St. Mary's (Gardiner) held a third generation wedding (bride, mother and grandmother have all been married at St. Mary's) and a funeral for their matriarch and church historian, Loraine Potter. The church was recently pressure washed and the deck was repainted.

Delegates also discussed a plan to reorganize the Diocesan Council that will reduce membership to convocation representatives only (i.e., "at large" members will be eliminated).

The 136th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Oregon will be held in Salem near the end of October, and the South Coast Convocation delegates will meet at St. John's on November 2nd to review the diocesan business and our region's plans for 2025.

Laurea Arnoldt and Denise Skillman are St. John's delegates. Kay Marino is an alternate.

The Conversation Group that meets in the church library on Thursdays from 10:30 to Noon is currently discussing the Gospel of John. But it is not a traditional line-by-line explanation of the text. While some time is spent learning about the context in which a passage was written, the group mostly talks about how themes in scripture can be relevant in our own lives, and the conversation often wanders from the starting point.

Selfishly seek **JOY**,
because your **JOY** is the
greatest gift you
can give to anyone.
Unless you are in your **JOY**,
you have nothing
to give anyway.

—Abraham Hicks

Looking ahead to October

The month of October generally begins with a blessing of animals near the Feast of St. Francis and ends with a Halloween Open House on October 31 (a Thursday this year.)

For the open house, we traditionally give away new socks (children's to adults) donated by parishioners, plus candy and small apples.



The event needs volunteers to coordinate, decorate and host. Look for sign-ups closer to the date. Also, unless you hear otherwise in the next couple weeks, consider donating some socks and candy.

St. John By-the-Sea

Episcopal Church

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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

(Open by Appointment Only)

Phone: 541-590-2443

**A Believe Out Loud
Congregation**



W H O W E A R E

St. John Episcopal Church is 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)

(Generally meets 2nd Sundays after Coffee Hour)

Bishop's Warden: Laorea Arnoldt

Junior Warden: Sally Glunt

Treasurer: Denise Skillman

Clerk: Ginny Hall

Members at large:

Michelle Felkins, Jennifer Mello, Gail Pray & Kathy Webb

Convention Delegates:

Laorea Arnoldt & Denise Skillman (Alternate: Kay Marino)

CHURCH STAFF

Vicar: The Rev. Doug Hale

Music Director: Cynthia Mohorko

OFFICE HOURS

Our Vicar, Fr. Doug, is generally in his church office

Tuesday and Thursday

from 10:00 a.m. until about 4:00 p.m.

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