

# St. John's Journal

Bandon-by-the-Sea, Oregon

October 2024



**Bring your pet** (or a photo) to our **Pet Blessing** service at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 6, 2024.

In honor of St. Francis of Assisi, Patron of Animals, the pet blessing will follow our regular Eucharist on the closest Sunday to his feast day. There will be about a half hour between services, giving you time to go home and round up your pets. It will be held on the deck if the weather is fine, or in Theresa Hall. (Animals must be leashed/under control. Treats will be available.)

## A Special Offering for the Vicar's Discretionary Fund

will be collected October 6th to fund Fr. Doug's charitable outreach to people in need on behalf of St. John's congregation.

## So, Noted!

The Bishop's Advisory Committee (BAC) met on Sunday, September 8, 2024.

**Financial Report:** Happy news to share. Due to a designated financial gift, the BAC recommended paying off the Local Improvement District Loans that we have been paying since 1998! This has saved us \$195.14 in interest charges. The total payoff for both loans was \$3,360.46.

At a meeting of the Finance Committee (Vicar, Wardens, & Treasurer) the kick-off for the 2025 Stewardship appeal was set for November 10th. The theme for the campaign is "Faith for Tomorrow." A letter from the Senior Warden will come out along with pledge cards. The campaign will go through November 24th. We will end the drive with a special coffee hour.

**Junior Warden:** The last thing to finish with the roof is the replacement of the newly refaced steeple and cross. Thank you to the Glunts and Mellos for facilitating the refurbishment.

**Vicar's Report:** Halloween is coming, and we will need help in gathering socks again, along with candy and apples! Spooky stuff!

### Upcoming Events:

October 4th - Father will be attending COHO Meeting in Eugene.

October 6 - Blessing of the Animals.

October 25 and 26th - Diocesan Convention in Salem.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurea Arnoldt, Bishop's Warden



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

12th Tharwat Ghaly

15th Cynthia Mohorko

16th Ginny Hall

27th Mary Garrett

## *Fr. Doug's Iconic Column*

I find myself looking ahead to the month of October. I suppose that is a good idea since September is coming to an end.

**On Sunday the 6th** we will be having the blessing of pets (see the front page).

**On Friday and Saturday the 25th & 26th**, Denise and Laurea and I will be in Salem for the Diocesan Convention.

**On Thursday the 31st**, we will be holding our Halloween Open House. I spoke with a neighbor down the street who is looking forward to this gathering. While having candy and apples to give away is appreciated, she told me that what she and her girls really look forward to are the socks we give away. Please consider how you might be of help to make this fun event happen again this year.

But to be honest, where my mind is really going is looking ahead to 2025 and what awaits us. 2024 has been a year of some significant accomplishments, including putting a new roof on the church and finally launching the Memorial Garden with several interments. We have begun making changes to the Garden to make it a more attractive space, but there is more work to be done in 2025. I am now hoping with these two projects launched that we will be able to return in 2025 to the expansion of our parking lot, a project that has been put on hold for a couple years.

To make these and other things happen, we need people who will take on leadership roles. As I look toward 2025, I realize that our leadership is due for some significant shake-up.

- For sure we will need a new Jr. Warden to be concerned with the building and grounds. Tom and then Sally Glunt took on that role consecutively for eight years. It is time for someone new.
- It is possible that we will need a new Sr. Warden to be concerned with the people and the vision for the church, along with the Vicar.
- It would be great if we could find someone who has some financial skills to bring to the financial responsibilities of the Treasurer.
- We may very well need a new Banker who takes care of all the deposits to the bank.
- We very likely will need a couple new At Large Members of the Bishop's Advisory Council (BAC).
- We, certainly, will need a new Clerk for the BAC to be responsible for taking minutes of the meetings.
- We will need to elect two Delegates to Diocesan Convention and the South Coast Convocation as well as two Alternate Delegates.
- As noted in another part of this newsletter, we are looking for people who would help with moving the church toward being more energy efficient and carbon neutral.

Of course, there are many other ways people are of service in the life of our church that we will continue to need in 2025 and beyond. We have people helping with the Medical Loan Closet, the Altar Guild, the Choir, worship leadership, and Coffee Hour hospitality.

As you can see, our church depends on a lot of people taking on responsibilities to make the mission of the church a reality in our community. What we need to aim for is people taking on responsibilities that fit people's interests and the skills they have to share. Please consider whether you might be willing to take on one of these roles. If you think you would or even if you are considering it but have a bunch of questions, please do not hesitate to talk with me or Laurea.

Fr. Doug





## YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN A NATIONAL “ATTENDER SURVEY”

This survey, which will take 10 to 15 minutes to complete, aims to capture the experiences of all attenders within a congregation and provide religious leaders of all traditions with database-critical information about the changing nature of congregational life and how to respond effectively.

This survey is part of a national study exploring the impact of the pandemic on congregational life and how faith communities have evolved. Once St. John's receives a link to the online survey, it will be passed on to our congregation members. Look for an email with more information.

### *Around the Diocese*

#### **MINISTRY TO THE MARGINALIZED**

In a month when we celebrate the compassion and generosity of St. Francis of Assisi, it is worth considering how his ministry to the poor and outcasts might take place here in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We need look no farther than our sister to the south, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Brookings.

St. Timothy's has a decades-old ministry to the marginalized – providing free meals, showers, clothing, vaccinations, mail drops, and a variety of other services and resources to people who are unhoused. Their free meal program was expanded during the COVID-19 pandemic when other area churches cut back or eliminated their meal services. As a result, the City of Brookings sued St. Timothy's for violating a city ordinance that restricted the number of days per week meals could be offered at any one site. St. Timothy's and the Diocese of Oregon argued that the ordinance violated the church's rights under the federal Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000. The judge decided in favor of the church. The City of Brookings has agreed to pay \$375,000 to cover St. Timothy's legal fees and an additional \$43,000 to the Oregon Justice Resource Center.

In March, when the settlement was reached (and before the annual influx of summer transients), St. Timothy's was serving around 292 free meals a week (an average of 73 per day, four days a week).

#### **DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

The 136th annual Diocesan Convention will be held in Salem, Oregon on the 25th and 26th of this month. St. John will be represented by Laurea Arnoldt and Denise Skillman. Delegates from the South Coast Convocation plan to dine together Friday night. There will be two business sessions on Saturday to handle elections, discuss resolutions and approve the budget for 2025.

Musings from Denise

## St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

The **Feast of St. Francis of Assisi** (officially on October 4<sup>th</sup>) will be celebrated at St. John's with pet blessings on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. The founder of the Franciscan Order of Friars Minor (monks) is perhaps the best-known medieval saint among Catholics, Protestants, and people of other religions. He is celebrated as the patron saint of animals, ecology, merchants, poor people, stowaways, and Italy (among other places).

*St. Francis was one of the few Catholic saints I had heard of before my sojourn in Italy in 1979. I spent that summer in Perugia, about eighteen miles from Assisi, so it was natural to want to visit his hometown, not to make a pilgrimage as many do, but to see the basilica and frescos. (I was studying art history, after all.)*

*Perugia sits atop a steep hill. Early one hot summer's day I trudged down to the bus stop at the base of the hill. There, I encountered three English women who were also bound for Assisi but couldn't figure out which bus to take (and the drivers weren't being helpful). My grasp of the Italian language was pretty rudimentary at that point, but I took a stab at asking one driver a few questions and got us all on the right bus. Thus began a friendship with those ladies that lasted many years and provided many stories I have already shared with you. Here is some of what I learned about St. Francis:*

Through his own writings (poems, letters, prayers, and testimonies of his spiritual experiences) and biographies written by his followers, much is known about the life of this saint who was canonized only two years after his death, and there are many stories about him.

Francis was born to a wealthy cloth merchant in Assisi who expected Francis to join him in his trade – which he did in his youth. His mother was a French noblewoman who hoped her son would grow to be a great religious leader. (She even staged her son's birth in a stable built for the occasion on the ground floor of their home, replicating Jesus' birthplace.) *Was this the inspiration for the first public live nativity scene, which Francis created in 1223 to honor the birth of Jesus?*

Francis grew up wearing the finest garments and wanting for nothing. He was popular among his peers and served in the army during a war between Assisi and Perugia, where he was captured and imprisoned for nearly a year. After his release, he resumed his military career, this time in the service of the Pope and in the hope of bringing glory to his family. But after various encounters with beggars and people with leprosy, he had a spiritual transformation during which he developed a deep compassion toward other people and all God's creatures.

In his early twenty's Francis heard God's call to rebuild the church. He sold his horse and some of his father's cloth to buy stones to rebuild a small, dilapidated church nearby, unaware the call was to repair the Church (with a capital "C"). Papa was not pleased. He charged Francis with theft. Francis repaid him, and famously took off all the clothes his father had provided and stood "naked" (except for a hair shirt) before the bishop and townspeople. Francis renounced his worldly goods and family ties to embrace a life of simplicity and poverty. The bishop gave him a coarse garment and promised that God would provide all else. Francis began working and begging for alms to buy rocks to rebuild the little church and gained a following. Eventually he and his followers rebuilt many small churches the same way.

Francis was ordained a deacon, but never a priest, which never stopped him from preaching (even to birds). He wrote the Franciscan rule twice – once when he first founded the Order of Friars Minor, demanding a strict vow of poverty based on Matthew 10:7-19 and again many years later, when it was clear his rule was too strict for most to

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## "NO LABOR" FUNDRAISER RESULTS ARE IN

This year, in lieu of a labor-intensive pie sale or rummage sale to help cover operating costs, we opted for a "No Labor" fundraiser, and asked people to just write a check. Our goal over the course of three Sundays was to raise \$3,000 by Labor Day.

With the help of visitors who contributed \$700 to this effort, we raised **\$3,793** by September 3rd.

## A NEW "ERA" BEGINS

The BAC seeks volunteers to form an **Energy Resource Advisory** group to research practical ways we can reduce St. John's carbon footprint.

We already recycle bottles and paper, we have replaced incandescent bulbs and the old oil furnace. We are gradually replacing appliances with energy efficient models. We've talked about installing solar panels or other on-site renewable energy, and participating in local carbon sequestration efforts. The BAC needs advice on the best options.

By 2030, our diocese aims to achieve carbon neutrality. Resources are available on the diocesan website: <https://ecwo.org>. (Go to: Thriving Communities → Working Groups and Task Forces → Creation Care.)

**Contact Fr. Doug** if you are interested in joining this new advisory group.

(The Rev. Bobbi Neason shared the following from her files.)

## *A Farmer's Prayer*

Our Loving Heavenly Father, Thou knowest that I am not overly fond of buttermilk. I don't care much for the texture and it smells sour and tastes sour and it seems like it is just a few jiffies from curdlin'.

And Thou knowest this, also, because Thou knowest all things, that I can't abide the taste of lard. Why only a fool would try to eat that pig grease.

And Thou knowest that I don't care for plain and raw white flour. It's messy, and whenever I git involved with flour, the kitchen ends up a fright. When I ingest it, the roof of my mouth gets dry and I can't git the stuff down my throat. It's just plain awful.

But Lord, when my dear Mabel here gits the buttermilk out of the icebox, and when she goes to the larder, and when she reaches into the flour bin and sets those things on the counter, and when she mixes them all together in just the right proportions and then dollops the mixture onto a baking tin and shoves it into the oven, Lord I do love them warm fresh biscuits she pulls out of the oven 15 minutes later—the very biscuits we're fixin' to eat now.

So, I thank Ye, Lord, for my Mabel and this food set before me, and I thank Ye for this reminder that when things come up that I don't like, when life gets hard, when I doesn't understand what Thou is saying to me, I should just relax and wait until Thou art done mixing the buttermilk, lard and flour. All in good time. 'Twill probably be even better than these here biscuits. Amen.

—Timothy Merrill, adapted from various internet sources



(Continues from page 5)

follow. The friars worked to earn their living and took alms, but never money.

### FRANCISCAN PEACE BROKERS

In the central provinces of the Italian peninsula, Franciscan Friars were often asked to broker peace among competing cities in their petty struggles. But there is also a legend of a very unusual brokered peace between a village and a wolf.



When Francis was staying with relatives at Gubbio about thirty miles from Assisi (soon after renouncing his father), he learned of a vicious wolf that was terrorizing the village, eating both livestock and people. The villagers wanted to kill the wolf, but Francis intervened. After speaking directly with the wolf and understanding its needs, he commanded the wolf never to harm anyone again and commanded the villagers to bring the wolf food. The villagers readily complied, and the wolf became a docile village pet.

Missions were sent to other countries of Europe as far as England and Germany, and to North Africa and Muslim regions of Spain. During the Fifth Crusade (1217-1221), Francis went to Syria to preach to the Crusaders and convert the Muslims. The sultan was charmed by his preaching and told Francis, "I would convert to your religion which is a beautiful one – but both of us would be murdered."

When he returned to Italy, Francis found that his brotherhood had grown to 5,000 in ten years, but had strayed from his rule of radical poverty, which the brothers found too harsh. He resigned as head of the Order, but wrote a less stringent rule, which is still in force today.


Years of poverty and wandering took a toll on Francis' health, and his final years were filled with suffering and blindness. It was then that he wrote the famous *Canticle of the Sun* to express his brotherhood with creation (Brother Sun, Sister Moon, Brothers Wind, Air and Fire, Sister Water, Mother Earth, and Sister Bodily Death) in praising God. He died on October 4, 1226, at the age of forty-five.

### Prayer Attributed to St. Francis

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light; and  
where there is sadness, joy.*

*O, God, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love;  
for it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying  
that we are born to eternal life. Amen.*

# October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:30p AA	2 7:30p AA	3 10:30 Conversation Group 6:30p Choir	4	5
6 (20th after Pentecost) 9:30a Holy Eucharist; Vicar's Discretionary Fund Offering 11a BLESSING OF ANIMALS	7 5:30p ACOA	8 9a-12p ADAPT 7:30p AA	9 7:30p AA	10 10:30 Conversation Group 6:30p Choir	11	12
13 (21st after Pentecost) 9:30a Holy Eucharist BAC	14 5:30p ACOA 7:30p AA	15 10-12 SEA Board 7:30p AA	16 7:30p AA	17 10:30 Conversation Group 6:30p Choir	18	19 BHS Alumni
20 (22nd after Pentecost) 9:30a Holy Eucharist <b>NEWS DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER</b>	21 5:30p ACOA 7:30p AA	22	23 7:30p AA	24 6:30p Choir	25	26 Diocesan Convention in Salem
27 (23rd after Pentecost) 9:30a Holy Eucharist, Healing & Forgiveness Service	28 5:30p ACOA 7:30p AA	29 7:30p AA	30 7:30p AA	31 <b>HALLOWEEN OPEN HOUSE</b>		





St. John's Annual  
**Halloween**  
**Open House**

Thursday, October 31st

Needs:

**VOLUNTEERS** to plan, prepare socks, decorate Theresa Hall and host the event (in costume, if you wish)

and

**DONATIONS** of candy and new socks (toddler to adult sizes).

**St. John By-the-Sea**

**Episcopal Church**

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Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-John-Episcopal-Church-in-Bandon-Oregon-234749653862372>

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**Medical Loan Closet**

(Open by Appointment Only)

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 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."**