

St. John's Journal

Bandon-by-the-Sea, Oregon

December 2024

December Services

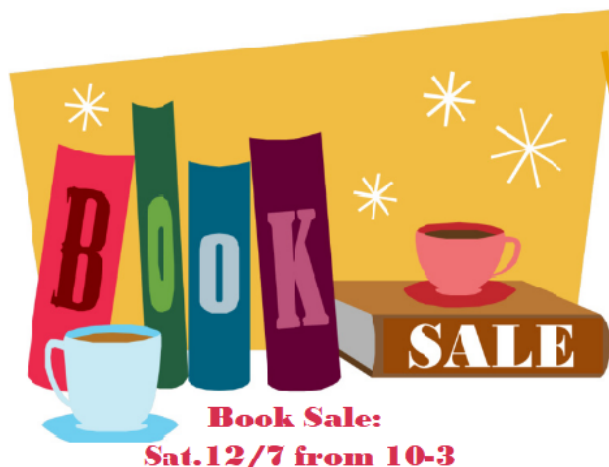
SPECIAL THANKSGIVING OFFERING: This coming Sunday, December 1, is the first Sunday in Advent. We will also be receiving a special offering celebrating Thanksgiving. This offering will go to support work in our Diocese for the poor and homeless. Any loose offering received on the 1st will go to this work. If you wish to write a check for the offering, note in the memo line that it is for "Thanksgiving."

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE: We will again hold a Longest Night Service on Saturday December 21st (the longest night) at 4pm. This is a Christmas themed service that seeks to be meaningful to people whose lives are difficult in one way or another. The service is meant to be a word of hope to them. Please consider participating in the service and inviting other people you know who need to hear a word of hope.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: We will gather for our Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols on Tuesday December 24th at 4pm. This uplifting service of the reading of the Christmas story and the singing of numerous Christmas hymns is always a joy. We also hope that our choir will bless us with an anthem or two.

FEAST OF ST. JOHN: On December 29th we will be celebrating our congregation's patron saint, the Apostle John.

VICAR ON VACATION: Fr. Doug will be taking a week off from December 30 through January 6.



**Book donations drop off:
after church on Sunday, 12/1,
or Thursday, 12/5 from 1 - 2 pm
Newer fiction, kids books
& cookbooks sell the best.
*Thank you!***

So, Noted!

St. John BAC met on November 17th , 2024.

Financial Report-The “logjam” of reconciliations has been broken! Thank you to Sally Jaeggli from Emmanuel for her expertise in untangling accounts! The Sweet Fund has gained \$625.43 dollars and the Morgan Stanley, \$163.14! Again here and there is all good. In our Pass-Through Distributions we were able to give Bandon Feeds the Hungry \$678; Good Neighbors \$256; Episcopal Relief and Development for Ukraine War victims \$108; and \$390 to aid the Hurricane victims. The Stewardship Campaign ends on the 24th of November. By Tuesday 14th, we had fifteen pledges for 2025, 8 of which were increases over 2024. The total so far is up to approximately \$46,720. To meet our target operating budget of \$85,663 we will need another \$38,943.

Senior Warden-A report was made to the BAC on the upcoming “Rainy Day Book Sale” set for December 7th from 10-3 in Theresa Hall. We will accept donations of GOOD books (please) 12/1 after church or on 12/5 Thursday 1 - 2 pm. Please be ready to help in whatever way that you can.

Junior Warden-Fire extinguishers have been checked and charged in their annual service.

Vicar-Advent starts December 1!!! Which means that the “greening” of the church is coming. That will be the 3rd Sunday in December. Please be ready to stay and help to decorate the church. We can have a group of interested people get together to plan the decorations.

Plan on a Special Offering for December 1st . Father will be on vacation 12/30-1/6/25.

The Annual Meeting is set for January 26th , 2025. Those of you who have reports to write should have them in by the 15th of January.

Upcoming Events:

December 1- Advent begins

December 8 - BAC meets after coffee hour

December 15 - Greening of the Church

December 24 - Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols at 4pm

December 29 - Feast of St. John (patronal feast transferred)

January 5 - Morning Prayer, no Eucharist

Respectfully submitted,

Laurea Arnoldt, Bishop's Warden



Fr. Doug's Iconic Column

Months ago, the Bandon City Council asked if the Bandon Ministerial Association would take on the challenge of creating a place or places for the unhoused in our community. This led to the reawakening of the BMA after lying dormant since the beginning of COVID.

While there are several churches that choose not to participate in the BMA, those who do have taken this challenge seriously. We have consulted with someone from the county who advocated that we use a model of this work being used in Eugene and elsewhere and indicated that there is grant money available to help make it happen. We met with Marrisa Nuez, who all on her own started getting to know those who were unhoused, gaining their trust and providing them with some food.

We ran into two problems as we considered providing a structured place for the unhoused to seek shelter. The first is funding. Most of the grant funds are not available to religious organizations. The second is location. No matter where we have considered where such a facility might be located, we have run into the universal attitude of "Not in My Back Yard." For instance, while St. John has some property that might in part be used for such a project, our proximity to the schools and our neighborhood would probably solicit opposition. So, the BMA found itself wondering what it could do.

Then this November we heard some exciting news. Marrisa, along with some supporters including our own Judy Jackson, have formed her work into a non-profit organization called "Food and Faith." Her work has expanded into a community wide program that includes providing a weekly dinner and a Free-Friday food distribution. It also provides "tents, sleeping bags, clothing, shoes, transportation, and blankets." The Bandon Free Facebook page has become a means of soliciting supplies as well as getting the word out for assistance to those who are in need. Food and Faith networks with the Good Neighbors and Restoration food pantries, the Good Earth and Seventh Day Adventist gardens, Ray's and McKay's markets and other organizations. This exciting work is something that I believe we individually and as a congregation can support and help it expand. We can donate clothing and sheltering items as well as make monetary donations.

In addition, the Seventh Day Adventist Church is working on establishing a Severe Weather Shelter in their gym building. There are a lot of details to work out to make this happen so I do not expect it to open any time this winter, but my hope is that it will be up and running for next year with the assistance of the other churches in the BMA.

The BMA is also seeking to establish a working agreement with Shooting Star Motel to provide short-term housing for local as well as transient people.

All of this is to say that we are seeing some exciting developments in our community for the care of those in need. They are opportunities for us to help make a difference in other people's lives. Please consider how you might support this work.

Fr. Doug



Musings from Denise

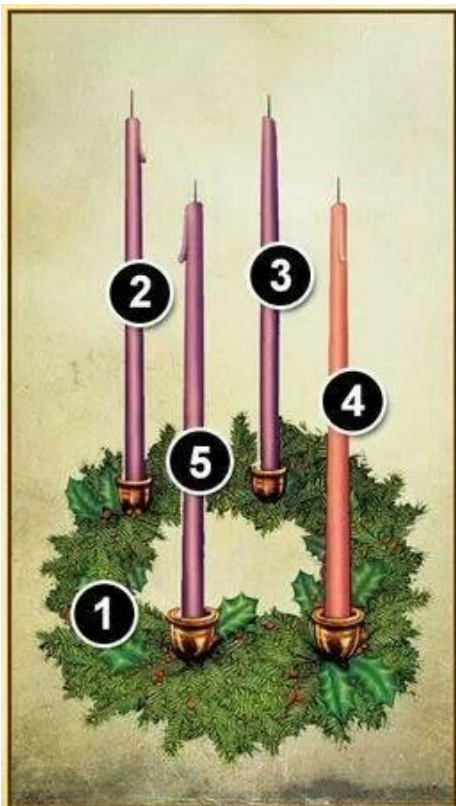
Savoring Advent

The first four weeks of the Church Year are known as the season of “Advent,” referring to both the first and second comings of Christ. The First Coming took place in Bethlehem around 2,000 years ago, when God’s Son came to save us from sin and death. The Second Coming will once and for all bring justice to this world through a Final Judgment.

With all the secular world’s focus on the gift-giving season that follows, these four weeks often get overlooked. But they are meant to be a time of reflection and preparation (as Lent prepares us for Easter). We may hear them in the shopping malls, but we don’t sing Christmas carols in church until Christmas Eve. The hymns we do sing during Advent focus on the sin and darkness in the world, and the coming of a Redeemer who will bring light and salvation, hope and peace.

When I was a child, my godmother sent me an Advent Calendar each year. Most of them had a winter scene with 25 flaps that hid a smaller picture for each day leading to Christmas Day. The flaps were numbered, but not laid out in chronological order, so each day I had to hunt for the correct flap to open. One year she sent a very different kind of Advent Calendar. It had tiny pockets instead of flaps, and each pocket contained a sweet treat, intensifying my anticipation of Christmas.

Back in the days when families gathered around the dining table for Sunday supper, some families I knew had an Advent Wreath as their centerpiece, and each week they would light an additional candle. I didn’t start using one until I moved away from home. It was a small way of connecting to holiday traditions far from home. St. John’s displays an Advent Wreath too. It is not part of our liturgy, but it is a useful remembrance of what the season is all about — especially when we know what the elements represent:



◇ **Evergreen Wreath** — The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning and no end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the foundation of all good. Green represents hope and new life.

◇ **Four Candles** represent the four weeks of Advent. Traditionally, each week represents 1,000 years, and the four add up to 4,000 years from Adam and Eve to the Savior’s birth. Three candles are either purple (traditional) or blue (modern), and one is pink (or rose). Each has its own significance. The first symbolizes HOPE/FAITH, the second is LOVE. The pink candle is lit third, and represents JOY. The fourth represents PEACE. Together they signify the light of Christ coming to humankind.

◇ **Christ Candle** — Sometimes a white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath, and not lit until Christmas Eve, signifying the Savior’s arrival among us.

Advent calendars and wreaths were probably meant to teach children about the values of Advent and the importance of Christmas, but they also serve to remind adults that preparations for the holiday involve more than shopping and decorating the house.



Our annual stewardship campaign officially ended on November 24th with soup and snacks following the dedication service. Thanks to all who have pledged financial support for St. John's in 2025.

We received 19 out of a possible 27 pledges, 13 of which were higher than this year. Pledges totaled **\$63,850** — a remarkable 27% increase over this year, but still about \$22,000 short of our anticipated expenses, so any additional pledges will be gratefully received.

REMINDER: To be applied to your 2025 tax year, one-time payments must be received after January 1st.

The BAC will now draft a tighter operating budget or recommend additional sources of income at the annual meeting on January 26th.

Individuals can support this church in many other ways, through gifts of time and talent. See pages 6 and 7 for a few of them.

Storm fells tree; spares church

The storm that hit Bandon November 19th caused a shore pine with multiple trunks to fall on the south side of the church, barely missing the stained glass windows and new roof.



The hazard area was immediately roped off, and the trees were removed on Friday and Saturday, leaving a pile of chips for the church's flower beds, and a stockpile of fire logs for anyone in the community who needs them. The new stump and some older ones were ground down at the same time.

The fast-growing shore pines were planted following the 1936 Bandon Fire. One tree remains by the bronze sign at the corner of 8th and Franklin.





Stewardship is about more than pledging money. It is also about pledging to care for one another and the place where we gather for worship. Here are a few of the many ways St. John's volunteers keep our church serving God, our neighbors and ourselves.

At the annual meeting in late January, you will be asked if you wish to continue the volunteer work you have been doing or sign up for something new (or do both). Volunteering adds purpose to your day, builds friendships, and demonstrates our faith for tomorrow. Here are some of the opportunities available in 2025:

ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

Bishop's Advisory Committee (BAC): St. John's governing body is elected at annual meetings.

Bulletin Preparation: Prepares service bulletins and Prayers of the People, assembles inserts.

Clerk: Takes minutes of BAC and annual meetings, endorses official documents. (Not required to be a BAC member.)

Communications: Publish monthly newsletter, maintain & update St. John's website or the Facebook page, community publicity. [See "Worship" for bulletin preparation.]

Delegates: Two delegates and two Alternates are elected at the annual meeting to represent St. John at quarterly Convocation meetings and the annual Diocesan Convention.

Fundraising Coordinator: Oversees varied fundraisers (rummage sale, food sales, etc.) as needed.

McKay's Receipts: Join receipt tallying work parties (about 4 times per year).

Supply Purchaser: Purchases cleaning and paper products for the church.

CHURCH CAMPUS (aka Building & Grounds)

Building & Grounds Care: Possible tasks include updating St. John's asset inventory (for insurance coverage); handling minor maintenance tasks to maintain St. John's buildings (like changing light bulbs), lawn mowing and weeding gardens. (Multiple volunteers are needed, and report to the Junior Warden.)

Green Energy Task Force (NEW): Explores costs and benefits of various green energy solutions to lower our carbon footprint and possibly provide an income stream (e.g., by installing solar panels). Reports to the BAC.

Memorial Garden Committee (NEW): Drafts policies and procedures for operating and maintaining an aesthetically beautiful scatter garden; organizes work days; purchases grave markers; maintains records of interments. Reports to the BAC.

Parking Lot Expansion Task Force (NEW): Designs an enlarged parking lot that increases capacity, improves

Continues on page 7

Continues from page 6

traffic flow and provides storm water management through landscaping. Researches city regulations and project costs. Proposes project to the BAC and, if approved, obtains approval from the City of Bandon. Oversees construction project.

Trash & Recycling Duty: Gather trash and put out for weekly pick up. Occasionally gather bottle and paper recycling and take to recycling center.

CONGREGATION

Hospitality for Coffee Hour: Prepare coffee, set up and bring treats, clean up.

Prayer Chain: Be a part of the prayer chain team, offering prayers throughout the week for people upon request. (Chairperson prepares weekly list of names for Prayers of the People.)

OUTREACH

Good Neighbors Food Bank Coordinator: Gather congregation's food donations and take them to the distribution location once per month.

Medical Loan Closet Volunteer: Receive phone calls, meet clients to check out or check in medical equipment. Be on call up to one week per month.

Outreach Coordinator: Under the BAC's direction, promotes and coordinates ways that we give funds and/or services to our wider community.

WORSHIP

Altar Flowers: Gather, or purchase, and arrange flowers for behind the altar.

Altar Guild: Care for sacred vessels, vestments and linens. Prepare altar for worship service.

Greeter/Usher: During services greet people, hand out bulletins, coordinate element bearers, pass collection plate, guide congregants at Eucharist.

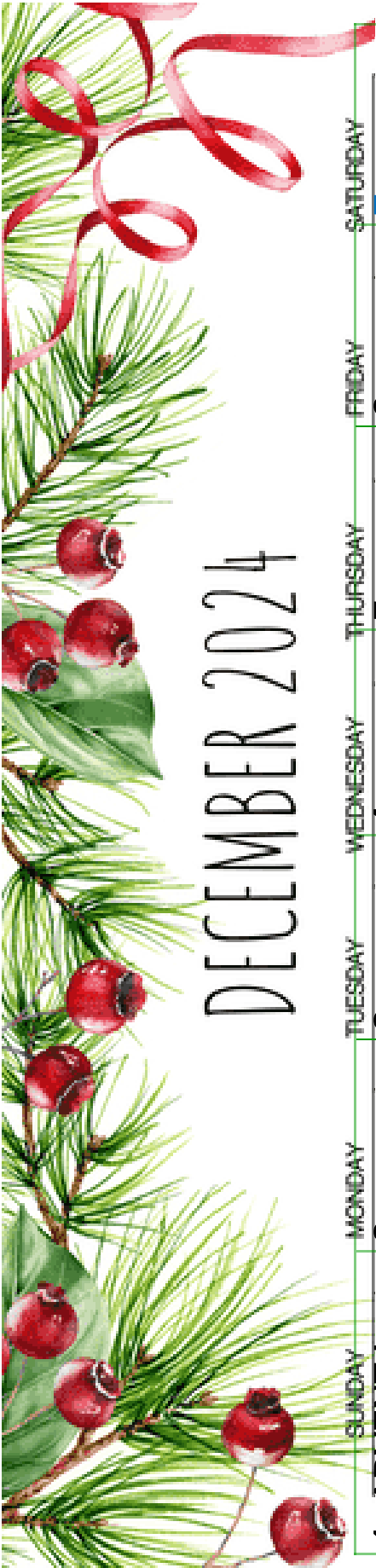
Intercessor: Offer the Prayers of the People during worship.

Lay Eucharistic Minister: Trained by the Priest and licensed by the bishop to assist with worship and Eucharist. Includes administering consecrated elements.

Lay Eucharistic Visitor: Trained by the priest and licensed by the bishop. After a service, take elements to members of the congregation unable to be present because of illness or infirmity.

Lector: Read the lessons and lead the congregation in the psalm.

Music: Sing with the Chapel Choir of St. John at occasional worship services. Choir practices one evening per week. Or accompany the choir, congregation and music director on a musical instrument.



DECEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 ADVENT I Thanksgiving Offering 9:30A Holy Eucharist	2 5:30p ACOA 7:30p AA	3 7:30p AA	4 7:30p AA	5 10:30a Convers. 6:30p Choir	6	7 Rainy Day BOOK SALE 10AM-3PM
8 ADVENT II 9:30A Holy Eucharist BAC	9 5:30p ACOA 7:30p AA	10 7:30p AA	11 7:30p AA	12 10:30a Convers. 6:30p Choir	13	14
15 ADVENT III 9:30A Holy Euch. & Healing <i>Greening of the Church</i>	16 5:30p ACOA 7:30p AA	17 SEA Board 10-12 7:30p AA	18 7:30p AA	19 10:30a Convers. 6:30p Choir	20 <i>NEWS DEADLINE FOR JANUARY</i>	21 LONGEST NIGHT 4pm Service
22 ADVENT IV 9:30A Holy Eucharist	23 5:30p ACOA 7:30p AA	24 4PM CHRISTMAS EVE Lessons & Carols	25 No Service CHRISTMAS DAY 7:30p AA	26 6:30p Choir	27 (Feast of St. John)	28
29 (1st after Xmas) <i>Feast of St. John</i> (Transferred from 12/27) 9:30A Holy Eucharist	30 5:30p ACOA 7:30p AA	31 New Year's Eve 7:30 AA	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4



Please
join us for
the



St. John's

Rainy Day Used Book Sale

Saturday, December 7th, 10 am– 3 pm

St. John Episcopal Church
795 Franklin, Bandon



Shop for books, puzzles,
and handmade bookmarks,
and
enjoy holiday treats & hot drinks.



Hope to see you there!



stjohnsbandon@gmail.com
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St. John By-the-Sea**Episcopal Church**

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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.

"Love God, love our neighbor, and serve one another."**BISHOP'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BAC)***(Generally meets 2nd Sundays after Coffee Hour)*

Bishop's Warden: Laurea Arnoldt

Junior Warden: Sally Glunt

Treasurer: Denise Skillman

Clerk: Ginny Hall

Members at large:

Michelle Felkins, Jennifer Mello, Gail Pray & Kathy Webb

Convention Delegates:

Laurea Arnoldt & Denise Skillman (Alternate: Kay Marino)

CHURCH STAFF**Vicar: The Rev. Doug Hale**

(Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.)

Music Director: Cynthia Mohorko**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

4: Jennifer Mello

18: Sharon Moy

22: Bobbi Neason

21: Lani Reynolds

& Jim Lawson

12: Judy Jackson

& Eddie Miller

23: Doug Hale

(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.)

