

St. John's Journal

Bandon-by-the-Sea, Oregon

January 2025

Another Year is Dawning



“Another year is dawning, Dear Father, let it be, in working or in waiting another year with Thee; another year of progress, another year of praise, another year of proving Thy presence all the days.

Another year of mercies, of faithfulness and grace; another year of gladness in the shining of Thy face; another year of leaning upon Thy loving breast; another year of trusting, of quiet, happy rest.

Another year of service, of witness for Thy love; another year of training for holier work above. Another year of dawning, Dear Father, let it be, on earth, or else in heaven, another year for Thee.”

~Frances Ridley Havergal, 1874

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879) was an English poet and writer of over 50 hymns, including one we often sing: “Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee” Brought up in a religious family (her father, William Henry Havergal, was an Anglican priest, writer, composer and hymn writer; her brother, Henry, was a priest and organist), Frances led a quiet life, and suffered from illnesses that led to her death at the age of 43.

Frances was known for writing “consecration poems,” and an example is the above New Year’s greeting she sent to her many friends in January, 1874. The language may be old-fashioned, but the trust, optimism, and determination to make a good start in the new year are eternal.

Musings from Denise



The Twelve Days of Christmas

You may have taken down your tree and packed away all your Christmas decorations by now, but as January marks the beginning of another year, the Christmas season is still upon us. In the Western Church, the “Twelve Days of Christmas” begin on Christmas Day and last through January 5th (the eve of Epiphany, which celebrates the arrival of the Magi).

This sacred and festive season celebrating the birth of Jesus was established by the Council of Tours in 567 C.E. During the Middle Ages, the twelve days of Christmas were a time of rededication and renewal. Each day, children were given small symbolic gifts of faith. That tradition inspired the Christmas carol we sing to this day. Far from being a silly song that lists a sequence of peculiar gifts on each of the twelve days, it was written in the 16th Century by Catholic clerics as a tool to teach the fundamentals of Catholic faith when such teaching was outlawed. Each “gift” hid a teaching:

1. **A Partridge in a Pear Tree** symbolizes God’s gift of His Son Jesus, whose birthday we celebrate on the first day of Christmas.
2. **Two Turtledoves** represent the Old and New Testaments, the complete story of the Christian faith and God’s plan for the world.
3. **Three French Hens** represent the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and also faith, hope, and love, as described by the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 13.
4. **Four Calling Birds** are the four Gospels — Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
5. **Five Golden Rings** are the first five books of the Old Testament (the Torah or Pentateuch): Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.
6. **Six Geese a-Laying** count the six days of creation described in Genesis, when God “hatched” or formed the world.
7. **Seven Swans a-Swimming** are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord.
8. **Eight Maids-a-Milking** represent the eight Beatitudes from Matthew 5:3-10 and remind us that Jesus cared as much for the poor and meek as he did for the rich and royal.
9. **Nine Ladies Dancing** are the “Fruits of the Spirit”: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control.
10. **Ten Lords a-leaping** represent the ten Commandments.
11. **Eleven Pipers Piping** are the eleven faithful disciples who proclaimed the gospel message after Jesus’ ascension.
12. **Twelve Drummers Drumming** are the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles’ Creed (*see BCP page 96*).

Today, many denominations of Christians sing “The Twelve Days of Christmas” at this time of year. I wonder how many appreciate the deeper meaning of the lyrics.



Fr. Doug's Iconic Column

As we move into 2025, it is important to note that the number 5 also represents the number of years I have been the priest at St. John. (If you count the number of Sundays I was a supply priest here, especially in 2019, it might come close to 6 years.)

We all were looking forward to my coming to St. John permanently. We had hopes that it would strengthen the life of our congregation and move us in some exciting ways. But then the COVID epidemic hit and we shifted into a kind of survival mode. It seems that now we have moved out of the shadow of COVID and into a renewing time. But as disruptive as COVID was, it opened a door for us that we would probably not have opened on our own. We developed an online presence. That presence was important during COVID, helping us to remain connected to one another when concerns for each other's health caused us to keep our distance. We continued to keep contact with a few people whom we might have lost otherwise. But I need to tell you that those little beginnings, those little seeds have sprouted. We used to have 3-6 people view our service each week. It appears that it is now more like 6-12, and sometimes more than that. The community of our church has grown, especially online. As we move into 2025, it would also appear that our financial resources have grown as well. These are signs of a growing strength among us. We also want to grow in the number of folks that participate in the life of our congregation by volunteering their time. The life of our congregation will be enriched by a wider variety of people volunteering, bringing their unique gifts and energy to our life together. On Sunday January 19th, we will be having a "Job Fair" following worship in Theresa Hall. This will be an opportunity to explore and learn about the many ways you can contribute to the life of our church.

We have been enriched by people who have come from other denominations and become part of our life together. One of those people is Rev. Bobbi Neason, a former pastor in the Presbyterian Church. She will be leading Morning Prayer on January 5th. (I will be on vacation from December 30 – January 6). The service will include what is called a service of Covenant Renewal. This service comes out of the Methodist tradition. It was originally written by Rev. John Wesley, who was a priest in the Church of England in the 18th century and founded the Methodist renewal movement. This service is often held at the beginning of the year as an invitation to recommit one's life to follow Christ in the new year. I hope you will be able to participate in the service either in person or online.

~Continue on Page 4

~Continue from Page 3

There are a number of things coming up in January. Take note of them in the enclosed calendar. **January 26th** is an especially important day. We will be receiving a **special offering for Theological Education**. This annual offering supports people who are studying to become priests. For the last few years, we have been sending this offering to Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley California. I took a few memorable classes there when I was studying to go into the ministry. It too has adapted to our changing world by doing more distancing learning. This is especially important for people who are looking to go into ordained ministry as a second career. It allows them and their families to stay in place in their homes and present work while studying. Please consider supporting the future clergy of the church.

The **26th** is also when we will be having our **Annual Meeting** following worship in Theresa Hall. This is an opportunity to hear some brief reports about our life together and to elect new members of our Bishop's Advisory Committee and new representatives to the Diocesan Annual Meeting and to our more local South Coast Convocation. If you are interested in serving in one of these roles talk with me or with Laurea.

I look forward to what else God will bring our way in 2025.

Fr. Doug



Happy New Year

While we contemplate the incoming year, I would love to have you consider serving on the Bishop's Advisory Committee (BAC). This is a two-year commitment of meeting once a month. It is a great opportunity to help shape the direction of this congregation's outreach and development.

Please approach me or Father Doug if you are interested.

Laurea Arnoldt, Senior Warden

JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 New Year's Day 7:30p AA	2 Gail Pray's Birthday	3	4
5 2nd Sun after Christmas Morning Prayer 9:30a & Covenant Renewal	6 Epiphany 5:30p ACOA 7:30p AA	7 7:30p AA	8 7:30p AA	9	10	11
12 1st Sun after Epiphany Eucharist 9:30a BAC	13 5:30p ACOA 7:30p AA	14 7:30p AA	15 7:30p AA	16 10:30a: Conversation	17 Annual Reports Due	18 Confession of St. Peter
19 2nd Sun after Epiphany Eucharist 9:30a & Healing JOB FAIR	20 MLK Jr DAY 5:30p ACOA 7:30p AA	21 7:30p AA	22 7:30p AA	23 10:30a: Conversation	24 News Deadline For February	25 Conversion of St. Paul
26 3rd Sun after Epiphany Eucharist 9:30a Theological Offering ANNUAL MEETING	27 5:30p ACOA 7:30p AA	28 7:30p AA	29 7:30p AA	30 10:30a: Conversation	31	



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

January 2: Gail Pray

Can it really be true that Gail's birthday is the only date we can commemorate in January? 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.

St. John By-the-Sea

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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.

CHURCH STAFF

Vicar: The Rev. Doug Hale

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

Music Director: Cynthia Mohorko

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)

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