

St. John's Journal

Bandon-by-the-Sea, Oregon

May 2025

The Daffodil Principle

An anonymous story submitted by Bobbi Neason



Several times my daughter had telephoned to say, "Mother, you must come see the daffodils before they are over." I wanted to go, but it was a two-hour drive from Laguna to Lake Arrowhead. "I will come next Tuesday," I promised a little reluctantly, on her third call.

Tuesday dawned cold and rainy. Still, I had promised, so I drove to her home.

When I finally walked into Carolyn's house and hugged and greeted my grandchildren, I said, "Forget the daffodils, Carolyn! The road is invisible in the clouds and fog, and there is nothing in the world except you and these children that I want to see badly enough to drive another inch!"

My daughter smiled calmly and said, "We drive in this all the time, Mother." "Well, you won't get me back on the road until it clears, and then I'm heading for home!" I assured her. "I was hoping you'd take me over to the garage to pick up my car." "How far will we have to drive?" "Just a few blocks," Carolyn said. "I'll drive. I'm used to this." After several minutes, I had to ask, "Where are we going? This isn't the way to the garage." "We're going to my garage the long way," Carolyn smiled, "by way of the daffodils." "Carolyn, " I said sternly, "please turn around." "It's all right, Mother, I promise. You will never forgive yourself if you miss this experience."

After about twenty minutes, we turned onto a small gravel road and I saw a small church. On the far side of the church, I saw a hand-lettered sign that read "Daffodil Garden." We got out of the car and each took a child's hand, and I followed Carolyn down the path. Then we turned a corner of the path, and I looked up and gasped. Before me lay the most glorious sight. It looked as though someone had taken a great vat of gold and poured it down over the mountain peak and slopes. The flowers were planted in majestic, swirling patterns—great ribbons and swaths of deep orange, white, lemon yellow, salmon pink, saffron, and butter yellow. Each different-colored variety was planted as a group so that it swirled and flowed like its own river with its own unique hue. There were five acres of flowers!

"But who has done this?!" I asked Carolyn. "It's just one woman," Carolyn answered. "She lives on the property. That's her home." Carolyn pointed to a well-kept A-frame home that looked small and modest in the midst of all that glory. We walked up to the house. On the patio, we saw a poster.

"Answers to the Questions I Know You Are Asking" was the headline. The first answer was a simple one. "50,000 bulbs," it read. The second answer was, "One at a time, by one woman. Two hands, two feet, and very little brain." The third answer was, "Began in 1958." There it was, The Daffodil Principle. For me, that moment was a life-changing experience.

I thought of this woman whom I had never met, who, more than 40 years before, had begun—one bulb at a time—to bring her vision of beauty and joy to an obscure mountaintop. Still, just planting one bulb at a time, year after year, had changed the world. This unknown woman had forever changed the world in which she lived. She had created something of ineffable, indescribable magnificence, beauty, and inspiration.

The principle her daffodil garden taught is one of the greatest principles of celebration. That is, learning to move toward our goals and desires one step at a time—often just one baby-step at a time—and learning to love the doing, learning to use

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Fr. Doug's Iconic Column

One of the most important things we do as a congregation is our service to our community. This service takes many forms.



Probably the most labor-intensive service we provide is the Medical Loan Closet. This extraordinary ministry touches a lot of lives as we loan out durable medical equipment to people who are dealing with medical needs. Our volunteers are on call about one week a month or so. While I am not directly involved with the operation, most of the phone calls I answer when I am in the office are from people reaching out to the Closet and I give them the phone number to call the volunteer of the week. From my office view point I am aware of the significant amount of time the volunteers put into their work and the wonderful gratefulness expressed by those who benefit from our help.

Another thing that we do is make the church building available to outside groups. Primarily we host three different Alcoholics Anonymous groups and an Adult Children of Alcoholics group on a weekly basis. We provide a safe, private and comfortable place for them to meet. Shoreline Education Association and Dances of Universal Peace meet here monthly. While we do not put much time into these gatherings, except for members of our congregation that are parts of these organizations, keeping our building ready to receive them is an important service we provide for a very minimal charge.

Long ago I figured out that small churches have an impact on our community through their individual members. We have active participants in Shoreline Education Association, Food & Faith, Good Neighbor Food Pantry, and Coast Community Health Center. I suspect that other individuals are involved in ways I don't know about. We may be acting individually, but we are acting out of our common purpose of being the Body of Christ serving the needs of the world.

We just completed a drive for donations of underwear given to Food & Faith to be of help to those who are homeless. We have a basket in the Narthex for the on-going collection of food items that go to Good Neighbor Food Pantry. Giving in these tangible ways is very important to those who receive them and also for us to actually see and touch what we are giving.

We take up special offerings from time to time to help with particular ministries in our Diocese or in the wider church. And we receive offerings for my discretionary account that are used to help people who are in need in our community.

One of the things that we have done for a long time is receiving offerings from people who are celebrating birthdays or anniversaries. The practice has been that those who come forward for a prayer for their birthday or anniversary often give an offering that is placed into the little wooden church that sits on a shelf in the sanctuary. For some time, these funds have been given to Bandon Feeds the Hungry, which then distributes the money to various food assistance programs in Bandon. Recently, the BAC has decided that these offerings will be split equally between Bandon Feeds the Hungry and Food & Faith.

I encourage us all to think how we can be supportive of these many efforts to make a difference in our community. How can we give our time? In what ways can we give financially or materially to make a difference in people's lives. We can give in big ways, but even small gifts make a difference in people's lives when they are joined with others. It can be done through the church or individually. What is important is that we become expressions of God's generosity to people around us.

Fr. Doug

Musings from Denise

ON THE USE OF HONORIFIC TITLES

Etiquette was important in my parents' house. During my pre-teen years, I received books by Emily Post, Amy Vanderbilt, and others, and read the "Miss Manners" newspaper column. I learned that the principles of etiquette evolve over time and have become progressively less stringent; and the rules of etiquette are influenced by cultural and regional variations. Consequently, correct forms of address are no longer as definitive as they once were. My grandmother would be horrified by the way people address each other today.

Our Vicar is formally addressed as "The Reverend Douglas J. Hale," but in conversation we may call him "Rev. Hale," "Rev. Doug," "Father Doug," or simply "Father."

When I was a child, I would have been reprimanded for calling any adult (whether I knew them well or not) by their first name. I was offended when the children at St. John's preschool were taught to address me as "Miss Denise," because it seemed far too familiar and was contrary to what I had been taught. I realize it is a common and polite form of address in the Deep South, but that's not where I live.

In African American, Indian, and Asian cultures, it is considered respectful to address a waiter or shopkeeper as "Auntie" or "Uncle," regardless of prior acquaintance. In countries with Latin-based languages, women are addressed with a variation of "Signora" (Mrs.) or "Signorina" (Miss), which can be awkward if the woman is presumed to be married when she is not. The English language introduced "Ms." to provide a neutral term, and more recently, the term "Mx." (pronounced like "mix") has been added to offer inclusivity.

The other day, as I was walking into the Post Office, I encountered a man clearly older than I am. We chatted about the weather and other trivialities, and as we parted, he called me "Mother." I wondered where that came from.

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, since 1275, it has been **"used as a respectful (or mock-respectful) form of address to an elderly woman, esp. to one of little means or education. Now chiefly archaic and regional."** (But it doesn't specify the region.)

I do not believe the man meant to be disrespectful, and yet I was offended again – not about being perceived as elderly (*that's undeniable*) but as being poor and uneducated (*which I've spent a lifetime trying to overcome*). He didn't seem to have an accent, so I wonder what region he is from where calling a stranger "Mother" is considered polite?

Being addressed as "Mother" for the first time felt both uncomfortable and undeserved, because I am not a mother. In my view, "Mother" is a hallowed term reserved for a woman who has given birth to and/or raised children – which is a considerable achievement we celebrate annually. To all of you who truly have earned the title, **Happy Mother's Day!**



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the accumulation of time. When we multiply tiny pieces of time with small increments of daily effort, we too will find we can accomplish magnificent things. We can change the world.

"It makes me sad in a way," I admitted to Carolyn. "What might I have accomplished if I had thought of a wonderful goal 35 or 40 years ago and had worked away at it 'one bulb at a time' though all these years. Just think what I might have been able to achieve!"

My daughter summed up the message of the day in her usual direct way. "Start tomorrow!" she said. "It's so pointless to think of the lost hours of yesterdays. The way to make learning a lesson of celebration instead of a cause for regret is to only ask, 'How can I put this to use today?'"

Christ's resurrection is an invitation to put "the lost hours of yesterdays" behind us every morning, and to use each new day to build a life of love and to value one smile, one kindness, one helping hand at a time, today. *"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!"*

So, Noted!

Financial Report:

Reconciliations:

The Vicar's Discretionary Fund and primary Checking Account have been reconciled through March 31, 2025.

The Money Market balance is now being reviewed.

Balance Sheet:

- There was no activity in the Altar Fund, Memorial fund, Vicar's discretionary Account, and Money market Account in March.
- The Medical Loan Closet received a \$50 donation and spent \$170.72 on parts and office supplies.
- The Capital Fund has approximately \$100,205 and Unrestricted savings has \$19,981.
- The Vicar's Discretionary Account has a balance of \$752.98. This is funded by special appeals twice a year (July & September this year) and by individual donations as they come in.

Investments:

- Morgan Stanley added interest of \$72.63 in March, bringing the balance to \$21,840.21.
- Sweet Fund had net gains of \$874.14 in January and \$313.04 in February, ending with \$35,245.53 on February 28th.

Action Items:

- Designation of Birthday/Anniversary donations will finish this year between Bandon Feeds the Hungry and Food & Faith. This can/will be reviewed yearly.
- Building & Equipment will see a budget increase from \$4,400 to \$5,522 as prices have increased. A new landscaping company will be chosen to take care of the lawn and trimming needs.

Senior Warden: No report.

Junior Warden:

- New Windows in Theresa Hall should be replaced very soon, per Scott at South Glass.
- We received a proposal from Reese Electric to retrofit the overhead lights in the offices and the kitchen. To do them all at one time gave us a sizeable savings.
- We still have not yet received an engineering report from Civil West re: the Parking Lot.
- The furnace filters have been changed.
- The sump pump in the basement has been keeping up with the rainfall.

Vicar: BAC Retreat-May 24th, Saturday from 11-3 pm. Vision & Mission re-visioning.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 3 - Diocesan Renewal Event in Salem.

May 12-14—Fr. Doug at Clergy Conference in Silverton.

May 20 - BMA to meet at Presbyterian Church at 1 pm.

May 24 - BAC Retreat at St. John.

May 26—Memorial Day Blessing of the Fleet (BMA).

May 31 - Convocation in Coquille at 10 am.

June 8 - Pentecost.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurea Arnoldt, Senior Warden



Happy 8th birthday
to the St. John's
Medical Loan Closet,



proudly serving our
community since May 2017.

Our volunteers
(Sally, Laurie, Lani, Bobbi, Andrea, Judy)
are the berries,
our clients take the cake!

Walk and roll.



Food and Faith

Thank you for caring and sharing.
The good people of St. John's collected 75 pairs
of new underwear for Bandon's unhoused,
45 for men, 30 for women.



Food and Faith offers resources for the unhoused and those at risk of becoming unhoused while imparting hope, resiliency, and community engagement. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. For more info: foodandfaithbandon@gmail.com
Mailing address: 1130 Baltimore Ave. SE, Suite A69, Bandon, 97411

Oh! gladly do we welcome thee,
Fair pleasant month of May;
Month which we've eager longed to see,
Through many a wintry day:
And now with countless budding flowers,
With sunshine bright and clear—
To gild the quickly fleeting hours—
At length, sweet month, thou'rt here!

~ First stanza of "A Welcome to the Month of May"
by Rosanna Eleanor Leprohon





BSUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 10:30/ Conversation	2	3
4 3 Easter Eucharist 9:30a 2p Dances of Universal Peace	5  5:30p ACOA 7:30p AA	6 7:30p AA	7 7:30p AA	8 10:30/ Conversation	9	10
11 4 Easter <i>Mother's Day</i> Eucharist 9:30a	12 5:30p ACOA 5:30p ACOA 7:30p AA	13 9-4, S.E.A. Training 7:30p AA	14 9-4, S.E.A. Training 7:30p AA	15 10:30/ Conversation	16	17
18 5 Easter Eucharist 9:30a	19 Newsletter Deadline 5:30p ACOA 7:30p AA	20 10:00/S.E.A. Board Mtg. 7:30p AA	21 7:30p AA	22 10:30/ Conversation	23	24 11-3, BAC Retreat
25 6 Easter Eucharist 9:30a Healing Service	26  Blessing of the Fleet (BMA) 5:30p ACOA 7:30p AA	27	28	29 10:30/ Conversation	30	31



St. John By-the-Sea

Episcopal Church

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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



MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

5/3 Karen Sinko

5/5 Sharon & Doug Moy (Anniv.)

5/12 Bobbi & George Neason (Anniv.)

5/23 Juanita Limon

5/25 Pat Ghaly

5/26 Marilyn Pratt

5/29 Doug Moy

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, but will meet this month on Saturday, April 12 at 10 a.m.)

Bishop's Warden: Laurea Arnoldt; Junior Warden: Kathy Webb

Clerk: Jennifer Mello; Treasurer: Denise Skillman

Members at Large:

Lori Holton, Maggie Lowery, Gail Pray

Convention Delegates:

Mary Garrett, Sally Glunt

(Alternates: Patti & Chris Wood)

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