

St. John's Journal

Bandon-by-the-Sea, Oregon

June 2025



Feast of Pentecost ~ June 8th

Pentecost is known as the "Birthday of the Church" because on that one day a small group of disciples expanded into a community of 3,000 people through the power of the Holy Spirit

Pentecost originated as a Jewish harvest festival that marked the beginning of the spring wheat harvest. It was observed 50 days after the Feast of First Fruits (which celebrated the barley harvest) on the second day of Passover. In the Old Testament, it is referred to

as Shavuot or the Feast of Weeks. In the New Testament, it is known by its Greek name, Pentecost, meaning fiftieth. For Christians, the significance of Pentecost shifted from a focus on harvesting wheat to gathering believers.

Initially, Pentecost was a pilgrim festival mandating all adult Jewish men to travel to Jerusalem to participate in celebrations in which freshly baked wheat bread made from the newly harvested grain was offered to the Lord. Consequently, the streets of Jerusalem became crowded with thousands of Jewish pilgrims from across the known world, who spoke various languages.

As instructed by Jesus (Acts 1:4), the apostles who had come to Jerusalem at Passover were still there after Jesus' resurrection, awaiting the gift God had promised. That gift was the Holy Spirit, who would comfort them and empower them to spread the Gospel. As they were filled with the Holy Spirit they gained a greater understanding of the mysteries of the Gospel and an ability to preach it to people of all nations and languages.

Why Do We Wear Red on Pentecost Sunday?

Red clothing on Pentecost Sunday is a tradition that symbolizes the fire of the Holy Spirit, which descended upon the apostles in the form of tongues of fire (Acts 2:41). This fire represents the transformative power of the Holy Spirit, which empowered the apostles to preach the Gospel. Red also symbolizes the fervor and zeal of believers who have received the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost Offering

A special offering will be collected on Pentecost Sunday to help fund grants issued to churches and church-related programs throughout the Episcopal Diocese of Western Oregon. The Diocesan Council reviews applications and awards the grants which historically have fallen into two categories. "Brick and mortar" projects recognize Pentecost as the "birthday of the church." Ministries that express the empowerment of Christians to be Jesus in the world (proclaiming the Good News, serving Christ in all persons, and striving for justice and peace) honor Pentecost as the great baptismal feast of the church.



The Legend of the Dogwood Tree

When Christ was on earth, the dogwood grew
 To a towering size with a lovely hue.
 Its branches were strong and interwoven
 And for Christ's cross its timbers were chosen.

Being distressed at the use of the wood
 Christ made a promise which still holds good:
 "Not ever again shall the dogwood grow
 To be large enough for a tree", and so

Slender and twisted it shall always be
 With cross-shaped blossoms for all to see.
 The petals shall have bloodstains marked brown
 And in the blossom's center a thorny crown.

"All who see it will think of Me,
 Nailed to a cross from a dogwood tree.
 Protected and cherished this tree shall be
 A reflection to all of My agony."

Poet Unknown

Biblical Anagram Puzzles

Scramble the letters of each nonsensical message below to spell the name of a Bible person, place or thing. (Each letter will be used once. Answers are on page 6.)

Books of the Bible

- 1) Evict Luis _ _ _ _ _
- 2) Sox due _ _ _ _ _
- 3) A voter line _ _ _ _ _

Women of the Bible

- 4) Ham art _ _ _ _ _
- 5) Her beak _ _ _ _ _
- 6) Hail led _ _ _ _ _

Places

- 7) Hog gloat _ _ _ _ _
- 8) Doo ms _ _ _ _ _
- 9) Rule James _ _ _ _ _

Because of its legendary Christian symbolism, a dogwood tree was planted in our Memorial Scatter Garden during Holy Week (mid-April this year).

While there is no historical evidence that the cross upon which Christ was crucified was made from dogwood (which, after all, is not native to the Holy Land), its blossoms tell the story of his crucifixion and remind us of the sacrifice he made for our salvation.

Fr. Doug's Iconic Column

FOOD! We like food! Our lives are built around food. When we gather with friends or family, there is almost always some food. Going out to a restaurant is a treat. And when we gather for worship, half of our worship is focused upon the holy meal with God, and we sometimes refer to the other part of the service as "feeding upon the word of God." And after worship, we gather for fellowship time at which food seems to be required. OH, and food is important because it keeps us alive.

So, it is no wonder that our church is involved in providing people with food. For a good number of years, we have supported the work of the **Good Neighbors Food Bank**, which distributes food once a month to people in our community who are having a hard time making ends meet, so a gift of food makes a big difference in their lives. This work began at the Seventh Day Adventist Church and then became a broader community service over 20 years ago. We invite our members to make donations of non-perishable foods for this work, by placing them in the basket in the Narthex.

There are several different food programs in Bandon that serve those in need. **Bandon Feeds the Hungry** is an organization that helps the community support these various programs, including Good Neighbors Food Bank, by raising funds that are then distributed to the various programs. For years our birthday and anniversary offerings that have been placed in the little church in the sanctuary have been given to Bandon Feeds the Hungry. Celebrating birthdays and anniversaries often includes food, so why not share that joy with others?

The latest addition to this work of feeding the people of our community has been **Food & Faith**. This work is rooted in providing food and other resources, like clothing, to people who are homeless or on the brink of being so. They are giving food every week on what they call Free Fridays. Interestingly, this community work has found its home in one of the buildings at the Seventh Day Adventist Church. We have just begun efforts to support this work by gathering much needed packets of underwear. We have also decided to split our birthday and anniversary offerings between Bandon Feeds the Hungry and Food and Faith.

And now something even newer is about to happen. Very shortly, you will be able to see the erection of a **Little Food Pantry** on the south side of the church facing the high school. This is a community effort for which we are providing space on our property. People will be free to come by at any time and choose food items that they can use. People who want to donate food items can come by and leave food items. There will be a need for non-perishable foods and possibly fresh produce items. Once it is in place, more detailed information will be forthcoming about what is needed and how we can be a part of it.

FOOD. It is a necessity of life, not only for the strength of our bodies but also for how it helps us connect with one another and with God. So as we gather for our meals of fellowship with God and each other, consider how you might be able to support these compassionate ministries through donations of food items or monetary gifts.

Fr. Doug



Musings from Denise

Travel Changes One's Perspective



Although I've called the Pacific Northwest home for over 40 years, I haven't had much opportunity to explore it until recently. It was a surprise to find bilingual street signs only 475 miles north of Bandon – in English and Klallam, the language of the people indigenous to the northern Olympic Peninsula of Washington state. I have no idea how to pronounce the words on the second line, but the locals have no problem with them.

The cruise I took through Puget Sound provided several enrichment programs conducted by an onboard marine biologist, and a choice of tours at each port of call, ranked according to activity level. Some were forest hikes and kayaking (both beyond my ability), some were visits to museums or guided walks through towns.

The highlights of the trip were a visit to a tulip farm and the Butchart Gardens during a tulip festival, and a whale watching trip during which we saw Orcas, Stellar Sea Lions, Harbor Seals, Pelicans, Bald Eagles, and a few birds I couldn't identify.

Since my only camera was on my (very old) phone, I wasn't able to catch any memorable shots of the wildlife because we were carefully keeping our distance to avoid disturbing them. However, on the first and last nights of our cruise, I discovered the sea lions hauled out on the jetty a mere thirty feet from my stateroom had no qualms about disturbing us. They barked all night long!

One of the pleasures of cruises like this one is learning about local lore. Here, for example, is a traditional S'Klallam tale that holds a lesson not only for children but for all of us, no matter how many years lie behind us or ahead of us:



Changing the Course of a River

A grandfather took his grandson fishing with a plan to teach him life lessons. After they had fished for a while, he asked if his grandson wanted to see him change the course of the river.

Not believing this to be possible, the grandson watched as his grandfather reached out along the sandy bank of the river and removed a rock about the size of his fist. Soon, a small stream broke away from the fast-moving river and filled the hole where the rock had been.

The grandfather said, "You see, Grandson, there may be things that happen in your life that are not what you had hoped. But realize that if you make one small, positive change, you can change the entire course of your life or another person's life."

What is one small, positive change you can make today that can change your life or someone else's?

So, Noted!

Finance Report -

The Primary Checking Account and Vicar's Discretionary Account have been reconciled through April 30, 2025. The Money Market is under review because the bank and QuickBooks don't agree as of April 30th.

1. There was no activity in the Altar Fund or Vicar's Discretionary account in April.
2. The Medical Loan Closet paid St. John \$750 for facilities use and receive \$280 in donations.
3. The Memorial Fund received a \$25 donation.
4. On May 6th, the Capital Fund made a partial payment to Civil West Engineering for progress on the parking lot project.
5. Pass-Through Gifts totaled \$634 in April: \$295 was collected for Good Friday, \$160 specifically for Bandon Feeds the Hungry, and \$179 for Ukraine. Future donations of birthday/anniversary gifts will be split between Bandon Feeds the Hungry and Food & Faith as directed the BAC.

Replacement of over-head fluorescent lights in the office, vicar's office, and the kitchen with LED lights was completed in April. Half was paid by the Operating Fund and half by an in-kind donation.

Junior Warden Report -

Re: Parking Lot - We have submitted a rendering of a suggested parking lot format to the Civil West Engineering Group and received back, their version. An on-site meeting with the engineer will be set soon to move this forward.

Re: Memorial Garden-A Garden map has been completed showing existing plants, plants to remove and plants to add. In addition, it also shows the no-plant zone around the memorial bricks.

Re: Landscape/Maintenance - Mike and Jennifer Mello have kindly agreed to do the mowing of the field and the lawn around the church. The field will be mowed only when necessary.

The committee will announce and hold monthly work parties to pull weeds, trim and do general clean up.

Vicar Report -

The Vicar plans to be on vacation in August which will set in motion multiple Morning Prayer Services.

The BAC has started the discernment process to updating our Mission & Vision Statements. Thank you to the many participants in the congregation that provided feedback. This will be an on-going process that hopefully will spark an interest and a knowledge about St. John and our place in this community.

The Little Free Pantry Committee sent a proposal of where the pantry could be placed at St. John. This will provide an opportunity for us to have a presence in the community as an outreach.

Upcoming Events -

June 8 - Pentecost

June 22 - Healing Service

Submitted gratefully by, Laurea Arnoldt, Bishops Warden

JUNE 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Sun. After Ascension Eucharist 9:30a 2p Dances of Universal Peace	2 Green Com. 10:30a 5:30p ACOA 7:30p AA	3 7:30p AA	4 7:30p AA	5 10:30a: Conversation	6	7
8 PENTECOST Eucharist 9:30a B.A.C.	9 5:30p ACOA 7:30p AA	10 7:30p AA	11 7:30p AA	12 10:30a: Conversation	13	14 BHS Alumni Gathering 12-3:30
15 TRINITY SUNDAY Eucharist 9:30a Father's Day	16 5:30p ACOA 7:30p AA	17 10 am S.E.A. 7:30p AA	18 7:30p AA	19 10:30a: Conversation	20	21
22 Pentecost 2 Eucharist 9:30a Healing Service	23 5:30p ACOA 7:30p AA	24 Newsletter Deadline 7:30p AA	25 7:30p AA	26 10:30a: Conversation	27	28
29 Pentecost 3 Eucharist 9:30a	30 5:30p ACOA 7:30p AA					

Answers to Bible Anagrams on page 2:

(1) Leviticus; (2) Exodus; (3) Revelation; (4) Martha; (5) Rebekah; (6) Delilah; (7) Golgotha; (8) Sodom; (9) Jerusalem. Source: Jumbo Bible Word Games, Vol. 1, shared by Bobbi Neason.

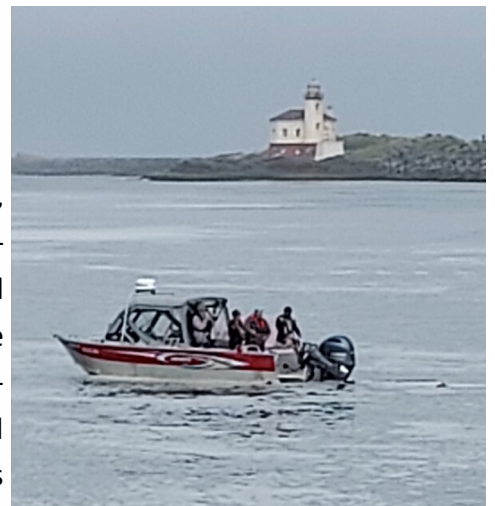


Not Forgotten

On the anniversary of her birth (May 16th), decorations appeared next to Ginger MacCallum's grave marker in St. John's Memorial Scatter Garden. A slightly heart-shaped stone laid next to her marker is inscribed "Irreplaceable ~ Always Loved ~ Ginger Snap" and is accompanied by a red pinwheel that spins as the breeze plays through the garden. Ginger passed away last June (the 12th), and is truly missed.

Blessing of the Fleet

On Memorial Day, May 26th, the Bandon Ministerial Association (BMA) held a brief prayer service at the Riverwalk Amphitheater before setting out on a small fishing boat to cast flowers on the river as they read the names of people who have perished at sea.



Rev. Robin Haruna of Unity Church explained this has been a Bandon tradition since 1989, but was interrupted by Covid -19, and this is the first time since 2019 that this event has been able to take place. Other leaders of the service were **Rabbi Guy Guernsey** of Messiah the King Ministries (who provided the boat) and **Father Anthony Ahamefule** of Holy Trinity Catholic Church.



The ceremony honored those who have been lost at sea, those who make their living on the ocean, and all military veterans.



St. John By-the-Sea

Episcopal Church

795 Franklin Avenue

(PO Box 246)

Bandon, OR 97411

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



JUNE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

George Neason — June 2

Steven Mohorko — June 9

Laura Randolph — June 12

Lorilyn Holton — June 25

Kathy Webb — June 28



Bill & Laura Randolph—June 21

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

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,

Officers:

Laurea Arnoldt, Bishop's Warden; Kathy Webb, Junior Warden;
Jennifer Mello, Clerk; Denise Skillman, Treasurer

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."