

St. John's Journal

Bandon-by-the-Sea, Oregon

July 2025

July Celebrations

ANNIVERSARIES

July 2: Laurea and Roy Arnoldt

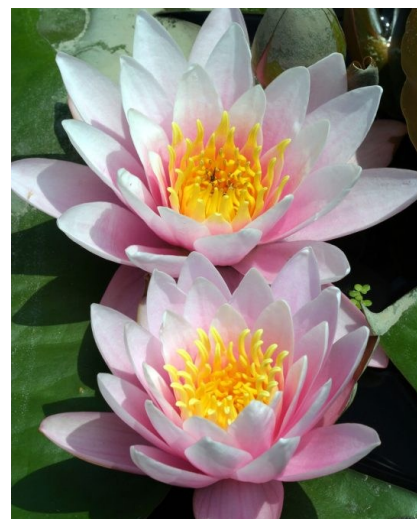
BIRTHDAYS

July 9: Tom Glunt

July 13: Dylan Levrets

July 20: Jeffrey Clark

July 23: Bill Randolph



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.

Tradition has assigned certain flowers and birthstones to every month of the year, and given them special symbolisms based on their color or other attributes. For instance the Larkspur (also known as Delphinium) is one of July's official flowers, and symbolizes a strong bond of love, joy, romance and positivity. Larkspurs are protective plants that can repel poisonous snakes and cure scorpion stings. In the Middle Ages, Europeans sprinkled larkspur in their bath water to protect their souls from ghosts and black magic.

The other July flower is the Water Lily, known for its long-lasting blooms that are considered sacred in several Eastern religions. They represent purity and signify rebirth, renewal and enlightenment because they emerge from the mud to bloom during the day and return to it at night.

Special Offering

On Sunday, **July 28th**, a special offering for the **Vicar's Discretionary Fund** is aimed to replenish Fr. Doug's means of making charitable donations to local individuals in need. All non-designated cash placed in the offering plate that day will be deposited in that fund. Checks may be written to St. John's with "**Vicar's Disc. Fund**" in the memo.

St. John Episcopal Church, 795 Franklin Avenue (PO Box 246) Bandon, OR 97411 * 541-347-2152

So, Noted!

Finance Report -

- As our Treasurer reported to the BAC, there was a “Comedy of Errors” involving new checks ordered for the Money Market Account to add a three-digit code that has been missing from our checks since before 2017. The bank promised the new checks will be processed in a more timely manner. Unfortunately, the replacement checks they supplied began with check numbers we’ve already issued, so they will need to send us a new array. Deep sigh.
- Reconciliations on the Vicar’s Discretionary Fund have been done through the end of May, as have the two Investment Accounts. The Money Market Account is still under review.

Balance Sheet -

1. The Altar Fund purchased palm fronds in May (\$58.15) leaving a balance of \$538.94
2. The Medical Loan Closet received \$80 in donations and ended May with \$3,182.98
3. The Memorial Fund had no activity
4. On May 6th the Capital Fund paid \$2,788.10 to Civil West Engineering for progress made in March on the parking lot design (invoice #1). A second payment was made on June 12th in the amount of \$2,674 (invoices #2 & 3).

Senior Warden Report -

Re: Parking Lot - Laurea and George will meet with Will Dawson at Civil West Engineering on Wednesday to communicate some questions and concerns with the design. More information to come.

Vicar Report -

- Safe Church Training will be offered in person at Emmanuel on August 30th for the new members of the BAC. They can also do the entire program online.
- Ginger’s brother Butch called and had a lovely conversation with Father Doug on the anniversary of her passing. He and the family consider “us” as part of the family. We are thankful!
- We will move forward with replacing the two aging computers in the office with newer re-furbished ones as Windows 10 is going away.

Additional Items -

Maggie gave us a report on a “Call to Justice” Conference put on by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) on how Faith Communities can support LGBTQIA2S+ rights. We will be bringing forward more information as we learn how St. John can be supportive in this community.

Upcoming Events -

June 22 - Healing Service

July 13 - BAC Meeting after church

July 27 - Healing Service and Vicar’s Discretionary Fund Special Offering

August 4-25 Father on vacation

Submitted gratefully by, Laurea Arnoldt, Bishop’s Warden

Fr. Doug's Iconic Column

Starting July 1st, I will be on Jury Duty at the Court House in Coquille. It is unclear how many days I will be tied up with this, but please be flexible about my availability, especially for regular office hours, at the beginning of July.

It is interesting that it has been over 40 years since I was last summoned to Jury Duty. I had thought that was going to be my only experience of it until I received the little card in the mail. I wonder if there is something contagious about being summoned, since Denise has just recently fulfilled her summons. So, watch out, it may be spreading in our congregation.

In preparation, I watched a couple of orientation videos. One of the main points that was made was the affirmation that the jurors are the most important part of our judicial system. Judges and lawyers stand out, but in trials by jury, it is the common people in the jury who decide whether someone is innocent or guilty or decide in favor of one side or the other of a lawsuit. It is "we the people" who decide.

Similarly, in an article from Sojourners Magazine that Bobbie shared with me I read this statement: "Louis Brandeis wrote that the most important office in a democracy is the office of citizen." The article then pointed out that before national policies are made to address issues, they tend to be preceded by grassroots efforts to address the issues. It takes individuals and groups of people addressing the issues in their local context that leads to broader impacts. It is easy to point a finger at political leaders and scream that they need to do something. While they may be in a position to have some impact, it is the work of "we the people" that is the solid ground upon which they can stand. Large rallies of people around an issue can provide some of that solid base. Also, those gatherings can help people see that they are not alone in their concern, that there are many others who want to make a difference.

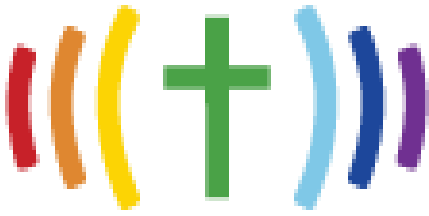
Making a difference locally is very important. We cannot simply wait for state or federal or world bodies to take action. Movements begin with small efforts. The new Food and Faith organization grew out of the concern of one woman for the homeless in our community. She inspired others who joined in the effort and are now making a big impact on the lives of the most vulnerable of our community. It is drawing a diverse group of "we the people" to be united in this effort.

Jesus said to his disciples before he was arrested "Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father." (John 14:12) It is sometimes hard to believe that "we the disciples" will do greater works than what Jesus did given that he is the Son of God. It may have a lot to do with there simply being more of us than one Jesus. It also has to do with the fact that after this statement Jesus promised that the Spirit of God was coming to the disciples, that in fact the Son and the Father would be within them, leading and empowering them.

It is easy to feel that as single individuals we do not have much impact on the world around us. Being part of a group can help us feel that together we are making a difference. But then to realize that as we commit ourselves to follow God's lead, we can see that we have become part of something much bigger than we can imagine. So let us together turn to God so that God may lead us and empower us, for that is how the Kingdom of God shapes our world.

Fr. Doug





A Place of Radical Belonging

Over ten years ago, St. John Episcopal Church registered as a “Believe Out Loud Congregation” and began adding that organization’s logo to our newsletter to make people aware that we welcome ALL people, including those who identify as LGBTQ+. Recently we learned we are no longer listed among that organization’s members, and in fact, Believe Out Loud has faded into the background, replaced by “Integrity USA.”

Founded in 1974, Integrity USA, was a non-profit organization affiliated with the Episcopal Church that promoted the inclusion of LGBTQ members and their allies for equal access to Episcopal rites. However, allegations of financial misconduct by board members in the early Twenty-teens led to its formal dissolution in 2022. The original Pride movement that dates back to 1969 is now affiliated with the Episcopal Church.

About that time, we posted a banner by our sign and in our newsletters (at left) to express our love for our neighbors and hope that everyone will feel welcome at St. John’s. Visitors have told us they were attracted by the banner’s message of inclusivity. (The banner has been brutalized by winter storms and needs to be replaced.)

Last Spring, the Episcopal Church USA unveiled a new logo incorporating the Latin and St. Andrew’s cross of the traditional red, white and blue Episcopal shield and the rainbow colors of the traditional Pride flag plus two other flags (the Progress Pride flag and the Philadelphia Pride flag, which recognize marginalized people of color and the transgender community).



June was Pride Month. It began with a “Pride Eucharist” in NYC, at which the Most Rev. Sean W. Rowe, our Presiding Bishop, officiated. We didn’t get the announcement out in time, but at the end of this article there is a link for you to see a video of the service.

Closer to home, on August 9 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Southern Oregon Coast Pride organization will sponsor “Coos Bay Pride in the Park” at Mingus Park. More information will come.

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. . . Radical Belonging

In 2026, the Episcopal Church USA will celebrate our 50th anniversary of affirming that LGBTQ+ people “have a full and equal claim to the love, acceptance, and pastoral care of the church.” [Rowe]

Visit episcopalchurch.org/organizations-affiliations/lgbtq for more information and to watch the June 1, 2025 “Pride Eucharist” service at the Chapel of Christ the Lord in NYC . Read along with the Worship Bulletin, available for download at the same link. It contains some beautiful verbiage.

St. John's Green Team

Kathy, Mary, Jennifer, Sally and Denise (members of the newly formed “Green Team”) met last month to discuss St. John's past, present and potential efforts to reduce our church's carbon footprint – not only to comply with the Episcopal Church's plan for all its churches to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030, but out of our own respect for the earth and its limited resources.

The team's mission is: **“to guide our church's progress toward carbon neutrality and to promote respect for the environment through responsible use of resources. As stewards of creation, we will find practical ways to reduce our climate impact and live more sustainably.”**

According to church records uncovered so far, various waste reduction and energy conservation efforts have been in place at St. John's since at least the early 1990's, but not in any organized or measured fashion. An energy audit has been scheduled to document our current carbon footprint and obtain recommendations for further ways to reduce our energy consumption (such as installing energy saving appliances, replacing incandescent and fluorescent lights with LED lights, etc.)



Members of the Green Team have taken charge of the church's ongoing recycling program for bottles, cans, and paper. In addition to reviewing what is and has been done already, we discussed the possibility of our congregation participating in a SOLVE clean-up project to advertise St. John's commitment to protecting our environment.

A long-range goal that came up during St. John's last annual meeting is to research the desirability, feasibility, and monetary impact of installing solar panels at church. Once preliminary information has been gathered it will be presented to the congregation for feedback on whether to proceed with such a project.

Next Meeting: Monday, July 28 at 10:30 a.m.

Submitted by Denise Skillman



July 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 7:30p AA	2 7:30p AA	3 10:30a: Conversation		5
6 4th after Pentecost Eucharist 9:30a	7 5:30p ACOA 7:30p AA	8 7:30p AA	9 7:30p AA	10 10:30a: Conversation	11	12
13 5th after Pentecost Eucharist 9:30a BAC	14 5:30p ACOA 7:30p AA	15 10-12 S.E.A. 7:30p AA	16 7:30p AA	17 10-12 S.E.A. 10:30a: Conversation	18	19
20 6th after Pentecost Eucharist 9:30a	21 5:30p ACOA 7:30p AA	22 7:30p AA	23 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 7:30p AA	24 10:30a: Conversation	25	26
27 7th after Pentecost Eucharist 9:30a <i>Healing Service</i>	28 5:30p ACOA 7:30p AA	29 7:30p AA	30 7:30p AA	31 10:30a: Conversation		

Musings from Denise

God Bless America

While the storm clouds gather far across the sea, / Let us swear allegiance to a land that's free. / Let us all be grateful for a land so fair, / As we raise our voices in a solemn prayer.

God bless America, land that I love. / Stand beside her and guide her / Through the night with the light from above.

From the mountains to the prairies, / To the oceans white with foam, God bless America, my home sweet home, / God bless America, my home sweet home.



Irving Berlin (1888-1989)

Every July, while others think of parades, fireworks and backyard barbecues, my thoughts turn to patriotic songs – when and under what circumstances they were written, how they have been used throughout history, and whether their message is still pertinent today.

For instance, *"The Star-Spangled Banner"* was written during the War of 1812, when Francis Scott Key was elated to find our flag was still standing after a night of British bombardment of Fort McHenry (Baltimore, MD), but it didn't become our national anthem until 1931.

"God Bless America" has a more singable melody but a complex background. It was composed during World War I by U.S. Army Sergeant Irving Berlin as the finale of a musical revue performed by soldiers at Camp Upton in New York. However, when the show premiered in July 1918, *"God Bless America"* was replaced by another of Berlin's compositions, *"We're On Our Way to France."* The song was stored in a trunk and not released until 1938, when the world was rumbling toward a second World War.

Irving Berlin was a Jew who had immigrated to the U.S. as a young child following a pogrom (a Jewish massacre) in Eastern Europe. Ironically, when singer Kate Smith debuted *"God Bless America"* to mark the 20th anniversary of Armistice Day (the end of World War I), her radio broadcast occurred just one day after Kristallnacht began (a Nazi pogrom against Jews and their property in Germany).

"God Bless America" became an anthem of the Civil Rights Movement and labor rallies, and a good luck charm for the National Hockey League's Philadelphia Flyers, and was sung at other sports events.

In 1940, *"God Bless America"* was the official campaign song for both President Franklin D. Roosevelt, a Democrat, and his Republican opponent, Wendell Willkie. On September 11, 2001, following the terrorist attacks, members of the U.S. Congress broke out into an apparently spontaneous verse of *"God Bless America"* during a live television broadcast from the steps of the Capitol building in Washington, DC.

It became Kate Smith's signature tune, and she always sang all three verses, but most Americans only know two. As I wrote this column a few days ago, the radio and TV reported that the U.S. had struck three Iranian nuclear facilities, prompting questions about the imminence of war. I thought it may be time for us to learn that first verse and "raise our voices in a solemn prayer."

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.

St. John By-the-Sea Episcopal Church

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Medical Loan Closet

(Open by Appointment Only)

Phone:

541-590-2443

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

CHURCH STAFF

Vicar: The Rev. Doug Hale

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

(Fr. Doug has been called to Jury Duty for the first two weeks of July and may not be available according to his usual schedule.)

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)