

St. John's Journal

Bandon-by-the-Sea, Oregon

October 2025

Saturday October 4th is the **Feast of St. Francis**. We will commemorate it on Sunday October 5th with a special service focusing on creation and our care for it. At 11:30 a.m. (following the regular Eucharist service) we will have a **Blessing of the Animals** on the deck.

This will give most folks an opportunity to go home and get their pets and bring them for the blessing. You can also just bring photos of your four-legged or winged friends who are too shy to come.

Blessing
- of the -
ANIMALS



All are Welcome (in costume or not)

Halloween Open House

Friday, October 31 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Volunteers will gather at 2 p.m. to decorate Theresa Hall and set up signage leading trick or treaters from Franklin Avenue to the parking lot entrance. We could use more decorations for the exterior (lighted pumpkins or luminaria, perhaps?)

We are collecting socks, candy, and apples to give out. Would someone like to prepare coffee or hot apple cider? All contributions are welcome.



Musings from Denise

SECRETS OF A SECRET SOCIETY

October begins with a blessing of animals, so I planned to have a pet-focused column. But since my cat, Boone, is in the doghouse for ripping my arm to shreds this week, he's not in my good graces. While looking for an alternative, I discovered a strange 18th-century secret society called the **"Order of the Pug."**

Pugs were a popular dog of choice for aristocrats and the wealthy elite in the 18th century. It's not clear whether one needed to own a pug to be a member of the Order, but pugs feature in numerous portraits during this period, usually portrayed as companion dogs content to be held in laps or sit at the feet of their owners.

Reading about the Order of the Pug reminded me of my teenage experience with Job's Daughters—a group connected to Freemasonry. My friend Leslie invited me, and my Master Mason uncle sponsored me. Not long after my initiation, Leslie had to leave because, as we later learned, the Catholic church forbade her membership.



In the early 18th Century, the Freemasons split along political and religious lines. In response, Pope Clement XII issued a decree in 1738 banning Catholics from joining secret societies like the Freemasons. Soon afterward, as an alternative, the Archbishop of Bavaria founded the "Order of the Pug" as a secret, Catholic, para-Masonic society. The order mirrored Freemasonry in its hierarchical structure and initiation rites, but with playful canine themes. (One difference was that women were admitted and could hold positions of leadership in the Order.)

Reportedly, the pug was chosen as the organization's symbol for its qualities of loyalty, trustworthiness, and steadfastness. Like Freemasonry, the Order of the Pug had secret initiation rites (which in this case included mimicking a dog's behavior, like scratching at the door and walking on all fours – that must have been extremely awkward in the long billowy skirts of the era). The ritual concluded with the initiate kissing the backside of a porcelain pug to demonstrate loyalty and devotion.

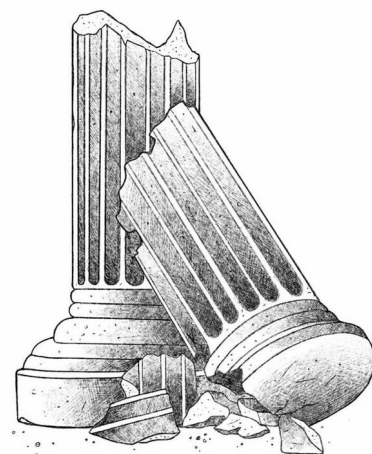
After a tell-all book in 1745 exposed its rituals and other secrets, the Order of the Pug disbanded.

Fr. Doug's Iconic Column

I think I am not alone when I say that I am finding it more difficult to determine whether the news I am watching or reading is accurate. There is a real difference between news and commentary and so much of what is seen as keeping us informed is actually commentary, an evaluation of the latest news. That commentary is so often biased. I have gone looking for sources of information that seek to be just factual. One source I was considering claimed to be unbiased, but when it contrasted itself with sources that are “woke” but not with those that are on the conservative side, I realized it was biased. I read another source for a while that seemed to give fair representations of things, but then I tired of how advertising was made to look just like the news articles, so I wondered what its actual purpose was. I found myself longing to go back to the old “Dragnet” TV show with the oft repeated directive, “The facts, Ma’am, just the facts.” What we need is something solid to ground our life and perspectives on.

I find myself coming back to a very basic point. God calls upon us to keep our focus upon God. We are called upon to follow Jesus, the Son of God, to let his life and teachings shape our lives. Most importantly, it is not about imposing this upon others but being focused upon our own lives. It is asking ourselves, “What would Jesus have ME do?” This is what Jesus meant when he said, “The Kingdom of God has come near to you.” People who follow Jesus have entered the rule of God’s kingdom. Seeing ourselves living in God’s kingdom is more important than living in the kingdom of the United States, or the kingdom of the Democratic Party or the Republican Party. Jesus, the Son of God, needs to be the reference point of our lives. From there we can begin to take on the challenges that the world throws at us.

When I am finding myself wearing thin in all the chaos and accusations, as well as the everyday troubles that we each face in our lives, I am trying to mentally turn toward Jesus and say, “What would you have me do?” It means valuing the time I spend in scripture, longing to hear him speak to me. At times I simply turn my attention to being in God’s presence. I don’t need more input; I just need to remind myself whose rule I follow and what I have already know of God’s way. God is my anchor point that I too easily drift away from. I need from time to time to turn my boat around and head back to my anchor. God does not take away all of my confusion, but he does give me space where I can catch my breath, and I have a good chance of riding out the crashing waves.



Fr. Doug

So, Noted!

Finance Report—The Primary Checking Account has been reconciled through July. The bank gives us a balance of \$56, 966.90. The Vicar's Discretionary Account is reconciled through August, the Money Market is still under review.

Balance Sheet:

Altar Fund-No activity in July or August.

MLC-received \$189 in July and \$90 in August; contributed \$750 to the Operating Fund for facilities usage. Ending Balance: \$2,971.98

Memorial Garden Fund-received \$500 in July and spent \$490.99 on 2 garden benches in August. Ending balance: \$152.47. An additional \$1558 remains in undesignated Memorial Funds.

Capital Fund-received \$3,000 between July 1 and August 31 and paid \$1,571.50 to Civil West Engineering during the same period. Ending Balance: \$96,512.85.

Vicar's Discretionary Fund-received \$541 through a Special Offering on July 27th. There were three disbursements that month, bringing the balance to \$773.98. An additional \$108 was received in August. Ending balance: \$881.98. Next scheduled Special Offering is September 28th.

Diocesan Program Assessment (DPA) in 2025 is \$11,232, which was drawn from parochial report figures that no longer exist. The Diocese is revising the formula to simplify the process so that no church pays significantly more or less than they did the previous year. In 2026, our DPA will be \$11,792.55, which will be a 5% increase over this year.

Operating Fund: on July 13th the BAC planned to budget to replace the dishwasher in the kitchen. Directly after THAT meeting, we discovered that we had flooded the kitchen running the old dishwasher! We have budgeted \$1,000 to replace it.

Stewardship Campaign will soon be upon us!!

Junior Warden Report—Laurea Arnoldt will call the City Planning Department to set up a meeting with the new director. Kathy Webb and Laurea will attend meeting. Permitting process for the parking lot is under way!

Vicar Report—Father will attend a Food Assistance Meet & Greet on the 23rd. Discretionary Fund Special Offering will be on September 28th.

Other Announcements:

- Halloween at St. John! See you on the 31st at 2pm to set up. More info coming!

Upcoming Events -

- October 5-Blessing of Animals
- October 12-BAC Meeting
- October 17-18 Diocesan Convention
- November 2-All Saints Sunday, Daylight Savings ends, Stewardship Kick-off!

Submitted gratefully by Laurea Arnoldt, Bishop's Warden

Little Free Pantry

Little Free Pantry on our south lawn at St. John's Episcopal Church was the idea of a Bandon community member who generously contributed the financial means for building the pantry. The pantry offers shelf-stable, non-perishable foods to individuals and families needing a little extra for their tables, their children, and even for their pets. Samantha Aho and Gizmo's Angels have continuously donated pet food for which we are most grateful.

Food items within the pantry are intended to help secure ingredients for a meal or two. We are hopeful that those who benefit will perhaps leave items they can live without, trusting the pantry will be here for them again when they are needful.

The motto of Little Free Pantry is: **Give What You Can and Take What You Need.** We have had the occasional person approach us and ask if it is "okay" to donate just one or two items when they are able – and yet they are the persons whom we find most in need. Thus, we encourage people to take what they need and to give what they can.

In encouraging donations to our Pantry, we ask that donors think in terms of protein and healthy foods, such as canned fruits and vegetables. Flip-top cans are very beneficial. But even bags of snacks and treats are welcomed. The most popular items are canned meats and fish; non-chunky peanut butter; jellies; and shelf-stable milk (including evaporated milk); stews and chili, soups and chowders; Chef Boyardee items; and small snack packs of fruit.

The following foods seem to be the most popular:

Canned chicken, tuna, salmon	Canned soups, chowders, stews and chili	Nuts or trail mixes
Peanut butter/other nut butters	Canned tomatoes/sauces	Protein bars
Jelly, jam, spreads, honey	Chef Boyardee items	Shelf-stable milks
Crackers, chips, pretzels	Canned vegetables	Shelf-stable broths
Dried beans and peas	Macaroni & cheese	Cereals, oatmeal
Pasta, rice, ramen	Salad Dressings	Ketchup, mustard, mayo

We believe Little Free Pantry has seen success. Either or both Deb Holder and I check it each morning and often in the afternoons, to be certain there are enough foods on the shelf for people to make choices. It has proven to us how much these donations are appreciated and used.

I have diligently attempted to keep photos in the public view on FB as often as it seems reasonable; and because of that, we have had a couple of people living far from Bandon who have sent us boxes of food via Amazon. The support has been outstanding.

The pantry is accessible 24/7, and we are most grateful for your donations. Please feel encouraged to bring items to Little Free Pantry at your convenience, placing them on the shelves. We are extremely grateful to the generosity of congregants of St. John's who continue to donate, as well. Please, no donation is too small or too limited. Bandon is full of generous hearts. And if you are in need or know of persons in need, Little Free Pantry has food items that we love to share with all.

With grace and peace to you,

Sharon Moy



OCTOBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30 AA	2 10:30-12 Conversation 6:30 Choir	3	4
5 Pentecost 17 EUCCHARIST Blessing of the Animals	6 7:30 AA	7 7:30 AA	8 7:30 AA	9 10:30-12 Conversation 6:30 Choir	10	11
12 Pentecost 18 EUCCHARIST, Healing Svc. & BAC	13 7:30 AA	14 7:30 AA	15 7:30 AA	16 10:30-12 Conversation 6:30 Choir	17 Diocesan Convention DAY 1	18 Diocesan Convention DAY 2
19 Pentecost 19 EUCCHARIST	20 7:30 AA	21 7:30 AA	22 7:30 AA	23 10:30-12 Conversation 6:30 Choir	24 Newsletter Deadline	25
26 Pentecost 20 EUCCHARIST	27 7:30 AA	28 7:30 AA	29 7:30 AA	30 10:30-12 Conversation 6:30 Choir	31 Halloween Open House 5-7 PM	A black silhouette of a cat sitting next to a crescent moon with a bat flying nearby.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS*

October’s birth flower, the marigold, holds special significance across various cultures and eras. Traditionally offered to the Virgin Mary in lieu of coins by European peasants (giving rise to their common name, “Mary’s Gold”), used in Aztec and Mexican “Day of the Dead” rituals, given in Victorian England during times of mourning, and prevalent in Indian weddings as a symbol of love and good luck, marigolds are cherished for their vibrant colors and meaningful symbolism.

** No anniversaries are mentioned for October. If your anniversary or birthday is missing from this list, please inform the office so we can celebrate the occasion with you.*

10/12	Tharwat Ghaly
10/15	Cynthia Mohorko
10/16	Ginny Hall
10/22	Wailani Reep
10/27	Mary Garrett



Why Do We Eat Cake on Our Birthday?

Did you know that the origin of birthday cakes can be traced to Mesopotamia over 4,000 years ago? The term "cake" derives from the Old Norse word *kaka*. Early versions were dense, bread-like items sweetened with honey, and often included eggs or cheese, as well as ingredients such as nuts, seeds, or dried fruits—bearing greater resemblance to modern Danish pastries than to contemporary cakes. In ancient Greece and Rome, honey cakes and cheesecakes were frequently offered to deities, occasionally adorned with candles. Cakes were primarily associated with weddings, festivals, and religious offerings. It was in later periods that Romans began to commemorate personal birthdays, a practice initially reserved for men. Special cakes—composed of wheat flour, nuts, honey, and yeast—were baked to celebrate a man’s fiftieth birthday; women’s birthdays did not receive recognition until the twelfth century.

The modern birthday cake originated in 18th-century Germany, where children’s birthdays were celebrated with *Kinderfeste*, gatherings featuring sweet cakes topped with candles. Each candle represented a year of life, along with an additional candle symbolizing hope for the coming year—a custom that persists today.

Historically, cakes were considered luxuries due to the expense of refined sugar, fine flour, and butter, and children’s birthday celebrations remained uncommon in the United States until after the Civil War. With the Industrial Revolution, the widespread availability and affordability of key ingredients enabled bakeries to mass-produce cakes for public consumption.

Present-day birthday cakes are often simple in design, such as frosted sheet cakes personalized with names—a tradition established around the 1940s—yet their symbolism endures. Cakes continue to signify abundance, indulgence, and celebration, while candles mark the passage of time. The act of gathering to share cake, sing, and honor milestones maintains a connection to historic practices of expressing gratitude and hope.

[Adapted from Historyfacts.com]

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<https://www.facebook.com/St-John-Episcopal-Church-in-Bandon-Oregon-234749653862372>

Medical Loan Closet

(Open by Appointment Only)

Phone:**541-590-2443****WHO WE ARE**

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.”

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

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 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)

Coming to Your Mailbox Soon

Third Quarter Pledge and Offering Statements will be available at church on Sunday, October 12. Any statements not picked up that day will be mailed on October 14. Please review your statement as soon as possible and let the Treasurer know if something doesn't match your records.