

St. John's Journal

March 2026

Fr. Doug's Iconic Column

For some time, I have been thinking that we need a better awareness at St. John about the organizations in our community that help people in need, and particularly those that have a connection with our congregation. I would encourage us to consider how we each can be more supportive of these organizations.



The first group and the longest standing one is the Good Neighbors Food Pantry. This pantry provides food on the first Tuesday of each month from 8am to Noon. It is located by Bandon City Park in the Barn located behind the Veteran's Memorial and the Senior Center. If you would like to donate non-perishable foods, you can leave them in the basket in our Narthex. For more information you can call 541-329-2399 or write to PO Box 566, Bandon OR 97411, or look up their new Facebook page "Good Neighbors Food Pantry Bandon," or better yet, talk with Kathy, Ginny, Bobbi or George.

The Second is Bandon Food and Flourish, formerly Food and Faith. They distribute food, clothing and other items every Friday afternoon from 1 to 3pm at the Seventh Day Adventist Church at 10th and Elmira SE. Everyone in need is welcome. They also have a special focus upon our homeless population, so they have put out a special appeal for: Men's clothing (especially jeans and pants), Shoes (comfortable men's & women's shoes), Thermal clothing / Long Johns in Medium – XL, Jackets, New Socks & Gloves, Belts, Hand Warmers, Wet Wipes, and Body Wipes. For more information you can look at their Facebook page, write to bandonfoodandflourish@gmail.com, or speak with Judy who is on their Board. If you wish to donate some items, bring them by our church and we will get them to the proper place or reach out using their email to find out when you can take them directly to them.

And finally, there is the Little Free Pantry located here at St. John. It provides assistance around the clock in a very unstructured way.

People are invited to “take what they need and leave what you can.” If you have non-perishable food to donate, just pull up and leave the items on the shelf. There is a new alternative way to give. Deb Holder has set up a way to buy food online through Amazon that you can then have sent to her and she will use your donations to stock the Pantry. For those reading this electronically, here is the link: Amazon.com. You can also print out the list of items she has selected as a guide for what you might donate directly. If you have any questions, Sharon is the one to talk to.

If you want to make a financial contribution that is tax deductible, you can make a contribution to the church and indicate that you want it passed on to one of these wonderful ways of assisting people in our community. Please consider how you can make a difference in the lives of other people in our community.

Fr. Doug

March Birthdays

3/12 Wailani Reep

3/20 Laurea Arnoldt

3/22 Robin Hanna

Anniversaries

3/17 Tom & Sally Glunt

3/20 Jennifer & Mike Mello

*3/29 Gail Pray & Stephan
Beauton*

So, Noted!

Approval of Minutes: January 11, 2026 BAC and Annual Meeting, January 25, 2026

Elections to BAC: Denise Skillman, Treasurer, Kathy Webb, Jr. Warden, and Jennifer Mello, Clerk.

Finance Report: Of the three main accounts (money market, primary checking, and vicar’s discretionary account) only the last two are reconciled. The Primary Checking Account was reconciled through 1/31/26 and has a balance of \$59,595.64. The Vicar’s Discretionary Fund was reconciled through 1/31/26 with a balance of \$486.08. A few sub-accounts have been reconciled through 1/31/26: Altar Fund \$538.94; Med. Loan Closet \$3,860.65; Capital Fund \$147,930.35. The Sweet Fund

began on a healthy note with a net gain of \$1,224.53, bringing the balance to \$41,089.07. This is managed by the Diocese of Western Oregon.

Overdue bills are still in the process of being caught-up while Denise was incapacitated.

Financial to-dos are: set up 2026 in QuickBooks, prepare the financial portion of the Parochial Report for 2025, meet with financial folks at Emmanuel for advice and assistance, continue to reconcile accounts so an audit can be set for 2024 and 2025, and finally, update Treasurer’s procedure manual to enable assistants to step in as needed.

Junior Warden Report: We finally received the approval of the City Planning Director to submit the plans for the new parking lot for bids.

There will be a new LG Dishwasher delivered by Home Depot to replace the aged and declining current dishwasher. (It's beautiful!!!)

Track lighting will be implemented at the back of the church to assist the choir.

Vicar Report: Updated Calendar indicating Special Offerings for this calendar year.

Upcoming Events –

March 8-BAC Meeting

March 22-Service of Remembrance for Roy Arnoldt

March 29-Palm Sunday

April 2-Maunday Thursday Service

April 3-Good Friday Service at 4pm

April 5-EASTER

April 12-BAC Meeting

April 30-May 3-Doug on Cursillo Weekend

May 3-Morning Prayer

Submitted gratefully by, Laurea Arnoldt, Bishops Warden from February BAC Meeting

DIDJA KNOW??

March holds significant biblical, spiritual, and prophetic importance, primarily because it frequently aligns with the Hebrew month of [Nisan \(or Abib\)](#), the first month of the biblical religious calendar. It marks the time of the Exodus, Passover, and the beginning of a new spiritual, spring-season, and, often, a season of breakthrough.

- **The Month of Redemption (Nisan/Abib):** According to Exodus 12:2, God declared the month of Abib (roughly March-April) as the "beginning of months," marking the liberation of the Israelites from Egyptian bondage. It is a time focused on liberation, miracles, and the start of a new, God-ordained year.
- **Passover and Easter:** The central, defining event of this time is Passover (Pesach), which commemorates the redemption of Israel. Because of this timing, the Christian celebration of Easter, marking Jesus' death and resurrection, often occurs in March, emphasizing redemption and new life.
- **A Time for "Marching" and Breakthrough:** Symbolically, the month is often associated with "marching forward" (Exodus 14:15), representing a transition from bondage to freedom or from obstacles to possession, similar to when the Israelites were instructed to move toward the Promised Land.
- **The Month of Esther (Adar):** The Hebrew month of Adar, which often begins in February and concludes in March, is the season of Purim, celebrating Queen Esther's courageous victory and the deliverance of the Jewish people from destruction.
- **Symbolism of Spring and Renewal:** As a time of transition from winter to spring in the Northern Hemisphere, March biblically symbolizes spiritual renewal, growth, and God's promise to make "streams in the desert".

In summary, March (Nisan/Adar) is considered a season of divine appointment for freedom, celebrating both the ancient deliverance of Israel and the resurrection of Jesus Christ, marking a fresh start in the biblical calendar.



Musing from Denise

OUR IRISH CONNECTIONS

Each year, individuals worldwide embrace Irish heritage by wearing green and participating in St. Patrick's Day festivities. However, we have a year-round connection to Ireland through one of our founding fathers and the gift of Irish furze he brought with him.

ST. PATRICK

March 17th is the popular feast day of the 5th Century missionary who introduced Christianity to Ireland. Lenten restrictions concerning fasting and alcohol consumption were relieved on St. Patrick's Day. Today, it is recognized as a celebration of Irish heritage and culture, characterized by parades, shamrocks, and green beer.

The earliest documented celebration of St. Patrick's Day occurred in 1600 – not in Ireland, but in the US, and not in Boston as one might expect, but in St. Augustine, Florida. It was not until 1737 that Irish immigrant communities in Boston commemorated St. Patrick's Day for the first time, seeking to preserve connections to their cultural heritage.

GEORGE BENNETT

George Bennett, who relocated here in 1873 from Bandon, County Cork, Ireland, found another way to preserve a connection to his cultural heritage. In 1891, Bennett persuaded the Town Fathers to rename the town (originally "Averill"), as the location evoked memories of his hometown.

In the 18 years between Bennett's arrival and the renaming of the town, this region surely had become more like his hometown, because he had brought with him Irish furze seeds (a.k.a. gorse) to create hedgerows, provide fodder for horses and goats, and other traditional uses. Unfortunately, the gorse quickly spread out of control and contributed to the fire that destroyed Bandon in 1936, so it's hard to be appreciative of Bennett's gift.

A KID OF GORSE

Gorse is oily and extremely flammable and has been used for centuries as a hot-burning, fast-acting fuel for bread ovens, kilns, and domestic fires. A "kid of gorse" was thrust into a domed oven to bring it up to a high temperature for bread baking. I came across the term while reading "Food and Cooking in 17th Century Britain," one of the more peculiar cookbooks in my collection. There was even an illustration of a "kid" on a short pitchfork. When I tried to Google "kid of gorse" the response was "colt" (as in a young horse). In an old

British dictionary online, I found that “kid” is an old term for a bundle or faggot of gorse bushes, used as fuel for bread baking ovens.

Bandon has tried many methods of eradicating gorse but rejected a proposal that came to the City Council around 35 years ago. A man wanted to harvest the gorse and compress it into biomass fuel pellets or briquettes, as a sustainable alternative to charcoal. I wonder if he read the same cookbook I did.

A LENTEN REFLECTION

Lent is a season of turning -- turning back to God, turning away from fear, scarcity, and selfishness, and opening our hearts to be remade in love. Through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, the Church invites us to remember that we are dust, yes, but dust that God has shaped for holy purposes.

Each act of generosity we make -- whether giving to the poor, serving our neighbor, or pledging support for the mission of the church -- becomes a way of dismantling the world's notion of scarcity. Generosity begets generosity. When we share what we have, no matter how small it may seem, God multiplies it for the sake of the kingdom.

-- from J. Davey Gerhard, TENS.org



Find some color pencils and play to your hearts content

March 2026



S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1 2 Lent	2	3	4	5	6	7
Dances of Universal Peace 2-4pm	7:30 pm AA	7:30 pm AA	7:30 pm AA	Conversations 10:30-12 pm Choir 6:30 pm		
8 3 Lent BAC	9	10	11	12 BAC Retreat @ Emmanuel 10-4pm Choir 6:30 pm	13	14
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS	7:30 pm AA	7:30 pm AA	7:30 pm AA			
15 4 Lent	16	17	18	19	20	21
	7:30 pm AA	7:30 pm AA	7:30 pm AA	Conversations 10:30-12 pm Choir 6:30 pm		
22 5 Lent	23	24	25	26	27	28
Service of Remembrance For Roy Arnoldt	7:30 pm AA	7:30 pm AA	7:30 pm AA	Conversations 10:30-12 pm Choir 6:30 pm		
29 The Sunday of The Passion: Palm Sunday	30	31				
	7:30 pm AA	7:30 pm AA				

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234749653862372

Medical Loan Closet
Phone: 541-590-2443



A Believe Out Loud
Congregation

Who We Are

St. John Episcopal Church is a community where God leads us in healing, teaching, reaching out, and stewardship.

We are 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.

BISHOP'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BAC)

Bishop's Warden: Laurea Arnoldt

Junior Warden: Kathy Webb

Treasurer: Denise Skillman

Clerk: Jennifer Mello

Members at large: Patti Wood, Lorilyn Colton, & Maggie Lowery

Convention Delegates: Laurea Arnoldt & Kay Marino

Alternates: Mary Garrett

CHURCH STAFF

Vicar: The Rev. Doug Hale

Music Director: Cynthia M0horko

Office: Denise Skillman, Laurea Arnoldt, & Maggie Lowery

Our Vicar, Fr. Doug, is generally in his church office Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. until about 4:00 p.m.

FEED MY SHEEP

So, Jesus asked us to do. We can respond by our donations to the Ecumenical Food Pantry, which assists those who are hungry and in need.

A basket in the narthex is there for your donations. In addition to food, things like tooth paste, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant, and shaving needs are welcome.

“Love God, love our neighbor, and serve one another.”