

St. John's Journal

April 2026

Father Doug's Iconic Column



As The month of April begins, we will be in the middle of Holy Week. It is a week of deep reflection when we can hear more than once the recounting of Jesus' passion, his suffering and death. It is a recounting also of how his closest disciples failed to follow him. It is a good time to take stock of our own successes and failures at following Jesus.

On Wednesday April 1st, I will be in Eugene for a worship service with our Bishop, where the clergy, deacons and priests, will be asked to renew the vows we took at our ordinations. It will be an important time for me to reflect upon how I have done and then recommit myself to the call on my life.

On Saturday evening April 4th, in many churches, a special late-night service will be held, The Great Vigil of Easter. We do not hold that service, but as I have in the past, I am providing an order of the service that you can use at home for special time of reading about God's saving activity throughout history including the resurrection of Jesus. Then there will be an opportunity for all of us to renew the vows we took at our baptisms or confirmations.

Then we flip the page of our calendar, and we find ourselves at Easter morning with the good news that Jesus has been resurrected from the dead. And thus begins a time of words of encouragement. Instead of a serious time of self-examination, we move into celebration and hope. The God who raised Jesus Christ

from the dead is ready to lift us up to new life, even now in this world and not just in the world to come. We are not simply living out our vows by pulling up our own bootstraps, we are living out those vows empowered by the one who raised Jesus from the dead. This becomes a time

not of introspection but expectation. To what will the Spirit of God lead us and then give us the ability to do?

The final Sunday of the month will be our monthly Service of Healing and Forgiveness. We come to that day with our aching hearts as we consider our own weakness and those of other people whom we love. And again, we look to the Spirit of God to move among us, to bring strength to our weakness, to bring healing to our brokenness.

Toward the end of the month, I will go to two special events that may stir up new things of the Spirit in me as well as in others. From Tuesday to Thursday, 21st – 23rd, I will be at our annual Diocesan Clergy Conference. I go wondering what the Bishop and the Spirit have up their sleeves (they aren't always the same). And then on April 30th I will be gone for 4 days to a Cursillo weekend, where I will be part of the clergy team. This is a special retreat for spiritual renewal.

And after all that, Pentecost will not be far away. Come Holy Spirit, renew us and give us new life.

Fr. Doug

So, Noted!

Finance Report: The Primary Checking Account and Vicar's Discretionary Account have been reconciled through February 28, 2026. The Money Market Account is pending.

In February, there was no activity in the Altar Fund or the Vicar's Discretionary Fund. The Medical Loan Closet received \$90. The Memorial Fund received \$50. The Operating Fund ended February with \$50,558.86. The Pass-Through Gift Funds received \$486. This Fund received \$3,768 and distributed \$2,814 in 2025, resulting in a carry-over of \$1,136 at the beginning of 2026. Another \$636 was received in January and February, bringing the balance to \$1,772. Some of last year's donations need to be double-checked before checks can be issued.

The following distributions will be made this month; Bandon Feeds the Hungry-\$976, CDSP (Theological Offering)-\$256, and Episcopal Relief and Development (Ukraine)-\$95.

Operating Profit & Loss: Budget vs. Actual is a report we haven't seen in a while. This shows amounts received/paid Year to Date, the next shows the amount budgeted for that time period, the dollars over or under budget and what percentage is represented by real dollars. This is to illustrate the replacement/new dishwasher, which cost \$1,026.96, was paid from the Building and Equipment line on February 28. This puts that line over budget for the time period, but the cost was included in the budget computation and will adjust as the year progresses.

We pay Emmanuel Church for Fr. Doug's health insurance. The payment made recently covers both February and March.

Junior Warden Report: We have received one bid currently for the construction of the parking lot. YOWZA! We have also been enjoying the lovely, more-efficient dishwasher!

Additional Items: We had an update from the Little Free Pantry Committee. We have been asked (for liability issues) to discontinue re-bagged food items. They must be left in their original and un-opened packing. Please send or take dog food and other non-food items to Faith & Flourish for distribution. Committee members, Judy, Maggie, Patti, Chris, and Sharon!

Vicar Report: Reported on the need to cancel the Conversations group as the BAC would be to Emmanuel for a Vestry/BAC Retreat.

Upcoming Events –

April 2-Maunday Thursday Service at 5:30pm
April 3-Good Friday Service at 5:30pm
April 5-EASTER
April 12-BAC Meeting
April 30-May 3-Doug on Cursillo Weekend
May 3-Morning Prayer-Denise Preaching

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

4/3 - Chris Wood
4/12 – Lara Mickle
4/20 – Cynthia & Stephen Mohorko
4/28 – Sally Glunt

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



Musings from Denise

BEING AN EPISCOPALIAN MEANS MORE THAN ATTENDING SUNDAY SERVICES

In mid-March I attended two church-wide meetings. The first was a BAC/Vestry retreat hosted by Emmanuel in Coos Bay for the South Coast Convocation (all the coastal Episcopal churches from Florence to Brookings). Joining me were Fr.

Doug, Laurea, Patti W., Lori, and Jennifer. Two days later I attended a semi-annual AGB (“All Governing Bodies”) meeting at St. Paul’s in Salem.

While some of the topics overlapped (stewardship and the need to develop ALL resources – including the time and talents of all church members), the BAC/Vestry retreat focused on the work of the Church within our community and the AGB focused on the work of the Diocese of Western Oregon.

The BAC/Vestry meeting brainstormed to understand the different responsibilities of clergy and lay leaders, now and in the future.

CLERGY RESPONSIBILITIES-Pastoral Care (Hospital, Home, and Nursing Home Visits; communications with individuals; helping in times of crisis), Sacraments/Liturgy (Preaching, Baptism, Confirmation, Discernment, Eucharist, Confession, Weddings, Last Rites, Burials), New Growth “Equipping the Saints” (i.e., teaching and empowering all believers for ministry and service to build up the church), Community

Connections (Local, Diocesan, Denominational), Administration (BAC/Vestry, Oversight of Finances and Organizations within the Congregation, Parochial Report).

LAY LEADERSHIP-Worship Leaders (Morning Prayer, Preach, Music, Altar Guild, assisting at Holy Eucharist), Outreach (Varies from church to church, but most have connections with local Food Banks. At St. John's we also have: Medical Loan Closet, Coffee Hours, Ushers, hosting AA; at St. Timothy's: Soup Kitchen, Laundry, Showers, Advocacy, Transportation, Legal Assistance, and providing a Mailing Address for homeless.), and Special Responsibilities when the church is without clergy.

GOVERNING BODIES-The AGB includes three governing bodies comprised of clergy and lay representatives elected by convention delegates:

The Standing Committee advises the bishop and becomes the Ecclesiastical Authority in the absence of a bishop. It gives consent for the disposition of property, ordination of clergy, election and consecration of bishops throughout the Episcopal Church, and ecclesiastical discipline.

The Board of Trustees stewards the funds and property entrusted to the Diocese. (I belong to this one.)

The Diocesan Council administers the missionary, educational, and social service work of the Diocese, oversees budget creation, and follows through on resolutions passed at the annual Convention.

The AGB noted the mission of the Episcopal Church has changed, and the need for church buildings has decreased in many places but the desire to hold onto a historic and familiar place of worship has not.

We broke into small groups to consider two case studies of churches that may face closure, then came together to brainstorm ways to make the transition less painful for the congregations. A member of my small group dubbed Case #1 a "Feral Cat" because it doesn't recognize that the alternative the Diocese is offering is for the best. They have had no priest for three years, have an ASA (average Sunday attendance) of twenty, and building maintenance costs that limit what they can offer clergy. The Diocese suggests that they move to a new nearby development that provides Sunday morning space for them to worship and use proceeds from the sale of their current church to set up an endowment that will fund clergy costs indefinitely. The AGB suggested the congregation start worshipping in different spaces and get a skilled Interim Priest to show them what having full time clergy can do and lead them to develop a new vision.

Case #2, originally a large urban church which also now has ASA 20, was dubbed a "Chihuahua" because it is lively, but demanding and stubborn. It has been without a priest for six months and is currently searching for a shared priest and can't understand why no one has applied for the job. They need to develop more reasonable expectations of clergy.

Finally, an interactive demographic map of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Oregon was introduced. There are sixty-two congregations, including twenty-three missions with ASA 26.26, thirty-eight parishes with ASA 75.68, plus the cathedral with ASA 83. It will help the Diocese determine how to reorganize some of the convocations so that missions and parishes can work together more efficiently. There are no plans to reorganize our convocation, but in the north, there are a couple coastal churches that are far from the Metro areas to which they've been assigned. They will likely become part of a new North Coast Convocation.

Over the years, I have learned a lot about our denomination by serving in many positions of church leadership, both in our congregation and in the Diocese. As I listen to the all-too-frequent discussions about closing churches, I grieve (both for those individual congregations and for our own). That first case study closely resembled our own situation before Fr. Doug and a healthy grant from the Diocese showed up. I would be crushed if we had to give up our building and stressed about what would happen to the Memorial Garden. They are legacies from those who came before us and beacons to the unchurched in our community. We should continue to maintain them so we can pass them on to those who come after us.



DIDJA KNOW?

April in the Bible

corresponds to the Hebrew month of **Abib** (or Nisan), marking the start of the religious year, new beginnings, and liberation. Key events include the Exodus from Egypt, Passover, and the crucifixion/resurrection of Jesus. It is often associated with themes of redemption, sacrifice, and the renewal of spring.

Key Biblical Events and Themes:

- **The Month of Abib/Nisan**: The Lord commanded that this month be the "beginning of months," marking the start of the sacred year for the Israelites (Exodus 12:2).
- **Passover & Exodus**: The Israelites celebrated the first Passover on Nisan 14 and began their journey out of Egyptian bondage, often known as the Feast of Unleavened Bread, around this time.
- **Resurrection of Jesus**: April is traditionally associated with Easter, commemorating the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ, representing victory over death and sins.
- **Biblical Timeline Events**:
 - **Miriam's Death**: Miriam, sister to Moses, died on Nisan 10 (Numbers 20:1).
 - **Palm Sunday**: Often falls in April, celebrating Jesus' final entrance into Jerusalem.
 - **Feast of First Fruits**: Celebrated during this spring period.

Spiritual Significance:

April is viewed as a time of new beginnings, both in the historical Exodus and the spiritual resurrection of Jesus, emphasizing liberation from bondage (physical or spiritual). It is seen as a time of salvation and the "blooming" of God's promises.

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.”

St. John Episcopal Church

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www.facebook.com/St-
John-Episcopal-Church-in-
Bandon-Oregon-
234749653862372**

Medical Loan Closet

Phone: 541-590-2443



**A Believe Out Loud
Congregation**

April 2026



S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1 Passover Begins	2 Conversations 10:30-12 pm	3 Good Friday 5:30 pm	4
			7:30 pm AA	Maundy Thursday 5:30 pm		
5 EASTER DAY 9:30 am	6	7	8	9	10	11
	7:30 pm AA	Doug in Eugene----- 7:30 pm AA	----- 7:30 pm AA	Conversations 10:30-12 pm Choir 6:30 pm		
12 2 Easter BAC Mtg	13	14	15 S.E.A. Training 9-4pm	16	17	18
	7:30 pm AA	7:30 pm AA	7:30 pm AA	Conversations 10:30-12 pm Choir 6:30 pm		
19 3 Easter	20	21	22	23	24	25 Spirituality Day-see bulletin board for info The Little Free Pantry 1-5pm
	Doug -- 7:30 pm AA	At Clergy --- 7:30 pm AA	Conference 7:30 pm AA	Conversations 10:30-12 pm Choir 6:30 pm		
26 4 Easter	27	28	29	30		
	7:30 pm AA	7:30 pm AA	7:30 pm AA	Doug at Cursillo		



Crumbs Under the Table

Crumbs Under the Table ECW 34th Anniversary Spirituality Day

Saturday, April 25, 2026 - 10 AM - 4 PM

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Eugene 1300 Pearl Street Eugene, Oregon 97401

Presented by The Diocese of Oregon Episcopal Church Women Look for registration information on our Facebook on page @Episcopal Church Women of Oregon (ECW) and website <https://ecwo.org/event/episcopal-church-women-spirituality-day-2/>

ALL ARE WELCOME

All information for Spirituality Day is on the hall bulletin board