

# *St. John's Journal*

## *July 2026*



### *Father Doug's Iconic Column*

So...Just when I thought it was going to be a quiet Summer...

We just got word that the construction company which we have signed up to do the expansion of the parking lot is ready to go to work as soon as they get the permit from the city.

We had speculated that after signing the contract it would probably be months before they would be able to fit it into their schedule. We had thought that it would be nice if it got done this year but thought it was also very possible that it wouldn't happen until next year. Well, we were pessimistic. It turns out that they were ready to go in less than a month.

It is one of those surprises that are wonderful and exciting and yet cause us to scramble to tie up some loose ends to keep things going in the life of the church. Once the old parking lot is torn up, the only good entrance to the church will be on the west side. For that to work well, we hope to get a ramp in place ASAP. And then we want some directional signs so that people using the building can find their way.

Let the construction begin!

\* \* \* \*

There will be a celebration of the Little Free Pantry later this Summer, bringing together the various folks that have been making it such a successful new ministry for our community.

I have heard comments from more than one person that it seems that every time they look, there is someone at the Pantry. I suppose either seeing what is available to them or filling it with more food. "Every time" might be a bit of an exaggeration, but it certainly

witnesses to its impact. I am glad that we welcomed it to be placed upon the church property. It has an impact upon our community, and it has drawn some of our members into supporting it on a regular basis.

But that is not the only food related ministry we support. We also welcome donations of non-perishable foods for the Good Neighbors Food Pantry. Those donations can be left in the basket in the narthex.

We also support the work of Bandon Food and Flourish with its weekly food pantry. It has a particular interest in serving our houseless neighbors, which brings up other needs besides food. They are always looking for clothing items. They could especially use men's underwear items. We will have a box available for those donations in Theresa Hall. As the rainy months approach, they have a special need for things like rain gear and waterproof tents. Speak with Judy about current needs.

\* \* \* \*

And finally, the South Coast Convocation of Episcopal Churches will be gathering at St. John on Saturday the 25th. Hopefully our Diocesan Delegates and Alternate Delegates will all be able to attend. This is an opportunity for the congregations from Brookings to Florence to get together. We can hear about what is going on in our various congregations and learn about developments in the Diocese in preparation for Annual Convention. Hopefully the parking lot will be done by then.

Father Doug

## **So, Noted!**

**Finance Report:** Reconciliations: Accounts are getting caught-up. Audit of 2024 and 2025 financial records is scheduled for early July which requires help in photocopying BAC meeting packets for those years, and checking that all necessary files are in order. Our Auditor is moving out of state, so we are on a tight timeline.

Preparing for changes by the end of this year are: Payroll will no longer be handled by the Diocese. A new vendor (Paragon Payroll) will take over on July 31, 2026. We were required to provide a client authorization form and voided check by May 26<sup>th</sup> to enroll. This will involve added costs of \$1,144.20. Another change is the removal of the older computer that Denise has been using to the other new one purchased previously. This then also requires new software. Changes are always involved!

Denise has received a new appointment at the May meeting of the Diocesan Board of Trustees. She has been appointed to serve on the Diocesan Investment Committee for a term of three (3) years.

The Pentecost Offering received on May 24<sup>th</sup> will be transmitted to the Diocese to support projects the Diocesan Council will select. In the past, two projects were selected: one for a newly established

program or ministry, and one for a brick-and-mortar project. This year, St. John contributed only \$50, substantially lower than last year's contribution of \$416.

**Junior Warden Report:** Johnson Rock Products will be advising us as to the start date of our parking lot construction. It will be very soon!

**Additional Items:** We have received a wonderful gift of a Jean Lambert-Rucki crucifix done in a "cubist-style". This will be displayed for all to enjoy.

## Upcoming Events –

July 12-BAC

July 25-Convocation at St. John's

July 26-Healing Service

Submitted gratefully by, Lauea Arnoldt,  
Bishops Warden from the June BAC Meeting

## July Birthdays & Anniversaries

July 9 – Tom Glunt

July 13 – Dylan Levrets

July 20 – Jeffrey Clark

July 23 – Bill Randolph

## Musings from Denise

1776-2026

In just a few days, we'll celebrate America's semi quincentennial – the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. "Semi quincentennial," a term representing 250 years, does not roll easily off the tongue (nor did "Quasquicentennial" when we celebrated St. John's 125 years as a mission church in Bandon in 2018).

So, to avoid the Latin tongue twister, people are referring to this anniversary as "America250." Lots of ideas have been bandied about for celebrating this milestone

anniversary not just on July 4th, but throughout the year.

(The cruise I'm taking this Fall is planning a special event – details yet to be disclosed – and requests that we pack something to wear in red, white, and blue.)



National planning for this anniversary began with a committee formed ten years ago, and it surprises me that so close to the holiday some proposed events are still up in the air. . . especially since the celebration format was set by Founding Father John Adams in 1776. In a letter to his wife, he declared that America's independence should be celebrated across the continent by succeeding generations

with “Pomp, Parade, with Shews (shows), Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations (fireworks).” To mark the one-year anniversary of the Declaration’s signing, Philadelphia hosted the first organized Independence Day celebration on July 4, 1777, and capped it off with a grand fireworks display.

When I was a child, we used to drive to a nearby community center, spread a blanket on the lawn, lie down, and watch the fireworks explode directly overhead. My perspective changed a little the year we brought our Ethiopian exchange student along. She was terrified by the noise and the proximity to the flashes of light and the ashes raining down on us. To her, it was like being under a military attack. We left early that year. Since then, I’ve met veterans who had similar reactions, and I know many pet owners who try to shield their pets from the noise. Here in Bandon, the fireworks don’t even begin until way past my bedtime, so it’s not as fun anymore. But the parades, performances, and other events help to lift our spirits – something we surely need these days. Happy 4th of July!



#### DIDJA KNOW?

If you are looking for the word "July" in the Bible, you won't find it. The modern Gregorian calendar—including the month of July, named after Julius Caesar—did not exist during biblical times. The Bible uses the Hebrew calendar or refers to months by number (e.g., the "seventh month"). [\[1, 2, 3, 4, 5\]](#)

#### **Biblical Time vs. July**

- **The "Seventh Month":** The time of year that roughly corresponds to July on the modern calendar was historically referred to in the Bible as **Abib** (later renamed **Nisan**). It was the first month of the religious calendar and marked the Exodus from Egypt. [\[1, 2, 3, 4\]](#)
- **The "Fourth Month":** The month of **Tammuz** roughly corresponds to June/July on our calendar. In the Bible, it is occasionally associated with agricultural harvests and the summer heat. [\[1, 2\]](#)

#### **July Themes in Modern Christian Traditions**

While the word "July" isn't in the scriptures, the month is heavily associated with specific spiritual themes and observances:

- **Month of Freedom:** In the United States, July 4th celebrates Independence Day. Pastors and believers often reflect on this day using biblical verses about spiritual freedom and liberty (e.g., [John 8:36](#), 2 Corinthians 3:17). [\[1\]](#)
- **Month of the Precious Blood:** In the Catholic tradition, the entire month of July is dedicated to the **Precious Blood of Jesus**, honoring His sacrifice and redemption. [\[1, 2\]](#)
- **Summer Growth:** In the heart of summer, July is often viewed spiritually as a season of illumination, active growth, and abundance.

To explore how communities study scripture during this time, you can follow guided reading plans like the one available on the [St. Luke's Methodist Church](#) site or find top verses for the season via [OpenBible.info](#). [\[1, 2, 3\]](#)

**St. John 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**

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**Medical Loan Closet**  
**Phone: 541-590-2443**

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**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.**

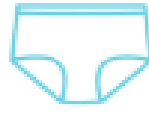
**A basket in the narthex is there for your donations. In addition to food, things like tooth paste, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant, and shaving needs are welcome.**

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

# July 2026



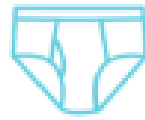
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	3	4
				Conversations 10:30-12 pm		
			7:30 pm AA	Choir 6:30 pm		
5 Pentecost	6	7	8	9	10	11
				Conversations 10:30-12 pm		
	7:30 pm AA	7:30 pm AA	7:30 pm AA	Choir 6:30 pm		
12 Pentecost	13	14	15	16	17	18
BAC Mtg		<b>BMA 1-3 pm</b>		Conversations 10:30-12 pm		
	7:30 pm AA	7:30 pm AA	7:30 pm AA	Choir 6:30 pm		
19 Pentecost	20	21	22	23	24	25
		<b>S.E.A. Board Mtg 10-12 pm</b>		Conversations 10:30-12 pm		<b>Convocation 9-12 pm</b>
	7:30 pm AA	7:30 pm AA	7:30 pm AA	Choir 6:30 pm		
26 Pentecost	27	28	29	30	31	
Healing Svc.						
	7:30 pm AA	7:30 pm AA	7:30 pm AA			



St. John's Supports  
Food and Flourish  
with an  
Underwear Drive

Let's work together to  
support folks from  
the bottom up.

You can help  
Bandon's unhoused by  
donating new underwear.



*Share a pair, show you care.*

What's needed

Men's boxers or boxer briefs – sizes S, M, L

Women's briefs – sizes S, M, L, XL

Please put your donations in the receptacle in Theresa Hall.