



The Dragon Scoop

March 2025

Mission Statement:
“Loving God,
Loving Our Neighbors”

St. George Episcopal Church
1024 SE Cass Avenue Roseburg, OR 97470
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The Episcopal Church Welcomes You



A Message from Bishop Akiyama

Dear Friends in Christ,

In the past several weeks, I have received many notes, letters, and emails expressing a variety of concerns about The Episcopal Church and the constantly shifting sands of our current government. The opinions of the writers represent a spectrum of perspectives, but one emotion is threaded throughout all of them: anxiety.

The reasons for this anxiety differ as some worry about those in our communities who are becoming more vulnerable and seek to know how the church will support them. Others worry that the church is becoming overly involved in matters that ought to rest solely with government leaders. And many others are simply worried about the instability they are experiencing because they have lost their jobs due to abrupt funding cuts.

I worry too. I worry that we will allow our anxiousness to overwhelm our need for community—for one another’s comfort and support. I worry that we will give in to the suspicion of strangers and pull away rather than drawing closer. I worry that a sudden misfortune in one’s life will lead to isolation, desperation, and anger. I worry that all we have learned from Jesus about God’s love will be cast aside in the scramble for certainty or security.

The Collect for this Sunday [Feb. 23] reminds us to meditate on God’s love—its complexities, depth, and promise. It asserts that living without God’s love as the foundation of our being and doing is to be dead in the eyes of God. We are called to draw

from the abundant love God has showered upon us so that all we do comes from that limitless source.

One of the most important actions we can take today is to resist the temptation to pull away from each other; to defy the sources of evil that seek to destroy the Body of Christ, our common life together. God’s love is the “true bond of peace” and the source of our life in Christ without which we are truly lost.

We have been created for one another—to become communities that reflect God’s love through acts of compassion, reconciliation, and consolation. In these times of rapid change, I urge everyone to stay connected to your church community for prayer and spiritual sustenance. Our lives depend on our capacity to live as Jesus taught: to love one another as he loves us.

In preparation for this Sunday and every day after, I invite you to pray this Collect:

O Lord, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing: Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

In Christ, 

~ from The Episcopal Church in Western Oregon
Diocesan Digest, Feb. 20, 2025

Rev. Matt's Pastoral Letter

**“Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return”**
(Genesis 3:19)

Lent is soon upon us, and it starts with the service called Ash Wednesday where we receive ashes upon our foreheads and these haunting words are said to us ... “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Remember. Remember what, exactly?

In part, we remember that at our core of existence, we are fragile .. we are mortal .. ALL of us! From the most powerful to the least, in truth, we are the same. We are made of dirt and we all will end up where we started. But there is something else that we need to ponder.

In my house growing up, dust was the enemy. Still is as I look over the furniture and see a light film of dust on it. Cleanliness is next to Godliness, right? But I am reminded of a lesson my granddad taught me. He was a master gardener and had the ability to literally make any plant grow. I asked one time how he managed to be so good at it. “It’s easy if you take care of the dirt,” he said.

He spent a great deal of time preparing the ground so that life could grow and flourish. Maybe, that is a good way to hear the words of Ash Wednesday and ponder what God in Christ Jesus will be doing to us during Lent. Without Christ, we truly are nothing more than dust. With Christ, we become fertile soil where love, empathy, grace, mercy, and compassion can thrive. With Christ we are reminded how important and needed we are for the sake of our neighbor so that they can grow as well. Ash Wednesday reminds us that we are all vulnerable. It also reminds us that we are all needed for the sake of life.

Lord, remind us all during this season called Lent.

Rev. Matt



In Memoriam

Jewell Lavelle Black Gates

December 19, 1928 — February 7, 2025

Jewell was born in Redmond, Oregon. After graduating from high school she worked for the phone company, but in later years in Roseburg she became a Realtor. She lived here for 55 years.

She was preceded in death by her son Jeffrey and by her husband of 48 years, Richard “Dick” Stewart Gates, who was a longtime Umpqua Community College faculty member.

She is survived by her son Stanton and her daughter Michelle.

Donations given in Jewell’s name will go to St. George’s Episcopal Church Women organization.



If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.

If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and night wraps itself around me,”
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully
made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very
well.

My frame was not hidden from you, when I was
being made in secret, intricately woven in the
depths of the earth.

Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written all the days that were
formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!

I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
I come to the end—I am still with you.

Psalms 139:9-18

Episcopal Church Women

by Betty Jo Hoffman

We had a good turnout for our meeting. Our main topic for discussion was the Shrove Tuesday* Pancake Supper on March 4, from 4:30-6:00 pm. It will cost \$5 each or \$15 for a family. Many of the ladies volunteered to do the many facets of putting on this supper. There will be a signup list so we know how many to plan on. (By the time you read this, the list will already have been put up. Please let me know if you haven't signed up yet.)

Becky Fendall (pictured below with Thelma Sayers) told us about the benefits of lavender—things like keeping away bugs, deer, mice, and mosquitos. One of its popular benefits is rubbing some on the palm of your hand till it is warm, then applying it to pressure points around your head and neck to relieve stress. Also, if you run your “lavender” hands through your hair it may improve its condition.



Photo by Carla Roady

Courtney Greenwalt gave us a report on the Warming Resource Center. They served 388 people and 50 dogs over 26 days.

Rev. Janine Goodrich advised that we will share the **Lenten soup and bread service** with Faith Lutheran Church. The gatherings will be

March 12, 26, and April 9 at Faith

and

March 19 and April 2 at St. George

Thanks to Faye Benham for providing a nummy lunch. (I pitched in with salad makings.)

Please join us for our next meeting March 20.

*If you want to know the history of and more information about Shrove Tuesday, look it up on Google. I did, and found a lot of information about how the races got started (where people with frying pans run through the streets tossing pancakes into the air and catching them in the pan while running!) and the fact that they continue in England, as well as why pancakes are made (too much for me to write here). It all has to do with preparing for Lent and fasting.

Thelma's Thought for the Day

Things turn out best
for people who make the best
of the way things turn out.



Parish News



Clockwise:

Birthday Blessings
for
Faye Benham,
for
Steve Thomas's daughter **Sasha,**
accepted by Steve,
and for
David Jones

Anniversary Blessings
for
Lori and Walt Combs



Welcome New Vestry Members!

Valarie Bruffett
Lori Combs
Lynda Green



*March cake
courtesy of
Lori Combs*



Parish News



Left:

**Birthday Blessings
for
Betty Jo Hoffman,
and
Hilary Flowers**

Above:

**Savannah Kennon
displays her winning
basketball team award!**

Upcoming



Worship with us during Lent & Holy Week

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - March 4
4:30-6:00 - St. George Episcopal (make reservations)

Ash Wednesday Services - March 5
Noon - St. George Episcopal
7pm - Faith Lutheran

Lenten Wednesday Soup & Worship
@ Faith March 12, 26 and April 9
@ St. George March 19 and April 2
5:30 - Soup Supper
6:30 - Holden Evening Prayer

Lenten Friday Meditations in Music (March 7 - April 11)
12:15 - First Presbyterian Church

Maundy Thursday Seder Meal and Service - April 17
6:00 - Faith Lutheran Church (make reservations)

Good Friday Worship - April 18
12:15 - First Presbyterian
4:30 - St. George Episcopal
6:00 - First United Methodist

Easter Vigil - April 19
6:00 - Faith Lutheran

Easter Worship - April 20
6:00 am - Sunrise Service - First United Methodist
9:30 - Faith Lutheran
10:30 - St. George Episcopal

The Preacher & The Teacher

1968

The roof on St. George's was quite high and steep, but when we added on to the Parish Hall, it was easy to get on the Parish Hall roof out of windows in the older portion and also get to the bottom of the church roof. One day we got a phone call from the secretary of the Methodist Church a block south of us [753 SE Main], asking if we knew there were two young boys on the peak of our church roof! Pat [Thompson, their mother] was working in the kitchen, so Fran [Elliott] and I got hold of her and we all went out and managed to talk the boys down with no injuries. The good Lord was looking after us that day, because the other side of the roof dropped off onto a concrete sidewalk.

On Palm Sunday Caroline and I heard Malcolm Muggeridge speak at Umpqua College. He was a well-known don at Oxford University and a co-worker and author with C.S. Lewis. Both were great champions of Christianity.

Florence Jacoby was chairman for the Easter Tuesday luncheon and did her usual fine job. The fly-in-the-ointment came Monday when George Gratke came and voiced criticism of my "moonlighting" (teaching at the college). Caroline was no help; she urged me to resign from St. George's. I was upset for several days—naturally—so I discussed the matter with Harry Jacoby, president of the college, who urged me to stay. (He needed an instructor for economics!) Later I talked to the bishop and looked at some of my options including Multnomah Community college. Anyway, the long and short of it was that I stayed on for another ten years, retiring April 1, 1978.

Gary and Jean Loomis painted the Sunday School room above my office; it was not easy as there was a steep stairway up to it and the Church bell was above that! From time to time kids in that room would pull the bell rope and either I or Dick Hagen would have to crawl up into the attic and turn the bell back over; if they rang it too hard and it turned over, somebody would have to turn it back or it couldn't be rung. Later, we ran the rope through a pipe so no one

could ring it except from my office, where we could have some supervision over it.

We began the month of June with both Col. Randolph and R. Elwood Smith in the Veteran's Hospital. And Caroline and I attended the installation of the Job's Daughters' Queen Saturday night at the Masonic Temple just across Main Street from the church. The next morning, the students from St. George's who were graduating from high school met for a group photograph by Chris Christiansen, a member of our congregation and an excellent photographer, followed by a breakfast. Looking back, I am amazed at how short the girls' skirts were!

Next was another unusual experience. Along with 14 or 15 others, I was invited to take part in a civil defense training at the VA Hospital. Taking my sleeping bag, I spent a couple of days and nights there, along with Miriam Hill, a nurse from St. George's, Chief Fowler of the fire department, Dr. Mueller, and some 12 others. However I got a little respite as I had to get back to the Church office to counsel a member who had caught his wife in adultery. And a wedding rehearsal at 7 with dinner afterwards at "Duffy's." But I got 100% on the exam on civil defense!

*The Preacher & the Teacher:
the story of our years at St. George's
as told by Father Alfred S. Tyson*



Cathedrals of the World

by Doug Holloway

Cathedral of Saint John the Divine New York City, New York

This is the Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of New York and is the fourth largest Christian church in the world.



Construction was begun in 1892 but due to many design changes, interruptions of two World Wars, and a large fire in December of 2001, it remains unfinished and is nicknamed St. John the Unfinished.

When construction was first started there were considerable extra expenses as bedrock was not reached until the excavations had gone down 72 feet. The massive 130-ton, 50-foot columns took over a year to install.

There are seven chapels radiating from behind the choir and the designs are meant to represent each of the seven most prominent ethnic groups to first migrate to New York City.

The first services were held in the crypt in 1899 but the cathedral was not opened end to end until 1941. Construction of the south tower continued during the 1980s but was then halted for various reasons and the rusting scaffolding was eventually removed in 2007.

The Great Organ was built in 1906, enlarged in 1954, and is one of five within the complex. The size of the Cathedral's interior presents a superb level of acoustics and is a major center for musical performances in New York City.

When the December 2001 fire swept through the unfinished north transept, although the Great Organ was undamaged it had to be laboriously dismantled, cleaned of soot from the fire, and restored. It was not returned to service until 2008. Then on Palm Sunday of 2019 another fire caused toxic smoke to get into the organ's 8,500 pipes and pneumatic pumps, silencing them. After long bargaining with an insurance company, the cathedral was able to proceed with the multi-million dollar restoration project. It took nearly two years to clean every pipe, which ranged in size from three stories tall to just one inch in length. In December of 2024 the organ was at last played in concert again and then rededicated in February, 2025.



This article was first published here in June, 2014, and has been updated slightly.

Financial Report

by Kathy Glockner

Finances - 2025

	January	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Pledges	\$ 7,302	\$ 7,169	\$ 7,302	\$ 7,169
Other Income	2,915	2,318	2,915	2,318
Total Income	11,164	9,487	11,164	9,487
Expenses	13,638	14,283	13,638	14,283
	<u>\$ (2,474)</u>	<u>\$ (4,795)</u>	<u>\$ (2,474)</u>	<u>\$ (4,795)</u>

For our first report of this year's finances, we have exceeded our pledges, but that's because some pay for the whole year at the beginning of the year. We did stay under budget on our expenses so we came out better than what we budgeted, but still at a loss of almost \$2,500. We are now paying the Goodriches about 30% more than last year, but we will be able to have more coverage than we did before, so it is money well invested. Hopefully we can bring in more income. Right now we're holding our own.

FISH

Highlights from the Jan. 27 FISH Board Meeting

- UCAN would like to give us the Pantry a store to replace Albertson's. Director Jenn Reida would like Safeway or Costco. Or a mix of both.
- Orientation for new volunteers will be the 4th Friday of every month.
- Translator—We have a translator available each day we are open. We have 2 signed up. Their regular job will be stocking so they are available to help shoppers.
- Saturday shopping—We plan to be open on the fourth Saturday of each month.
- We served 979 families in December. Our numbers are still going up.
- We used 1 night of shelter for \$77.60 and 4 fuel vouchers totaling \$100 in December.

Individuals donated \$80,600 to FISH. Other contributions included \$1000 from Methodist Women and \$571 from Faith Lutheran Meals at the Manger. Grants received totaled \$42,500.

The FISH of Roseburg
FOOD PANTRY

**OPEN
4TH
SATURDAY**

of each month

**STARTING
SATURDAY
FEBRUARY
22ND
10A-1P**



Stamp Club News

**Umpqua Valley Stamp Club presents
the March Stamp Of The Month**



The first full week in March is Consumer Education Week

The Stamp was created at request of First Lady Rosalyn Carter to raise awareness of the importance of consumer education. The stamp was issued for the National Consumers Week, which was sponsored by the US Office of Consumer Affairs. The Consumer Protection Act, implemented in 1986, covers all goods and services of all public, private, or cooperative sectors.



Scott catalog #2005,
issued on April 27, 1982

The Umpqua Valley Stamp Club meets monthly every 3rd Monday except for June and December.
Here in the Parish Hall at 7:15. Visitors welcome.

*Poster by Clarence Adams,
Umpqua Valley Stamp Club*

**BREW
ED THE
OLOGY**

What
the
HELL
What...
Where...
Why... **IS IT?**

We hope you will join us for this month's topic for conversation—"What the Hell? What/Where?/Why is it?"

Brewed Theology

We all have questions, we all have opinions. Come and share and learn together.

We meet in the upper room in Brix Bar on Thurs., March 6, at 2:30 and 6:30 (come upstairs early if you plan on ordering dinner.) 😊

See you then!

Graphic by Rev. Janine Goodrich



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St. George Episcopal Church publishes **THE DRAGON SCOOP** monthly.
If you would like something to be considered for the newsletter please talk to
Leigh Van Sickle, Editor

Co-Rectors: The Revs. Janine & Matt Goodrich
Senior Warden: Pete Benham
Co-Junior Wardens:
Bob Spielman & Sue Phelps
Treasurer: Kathy Glockner

OFFICE HOURS
10 am—2 pm
Monday through Friday

ST. GEORGE WORSHIP
10:30 am
Sundays
and
10 am
Wednesdays

