



# The Beacon

## St. Thomas Episcopal Church

*Give thanks and praise to God and share God's love.*

April 2023

Volume 24 Issue 4

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### From the Rector's Desk

Three years ago at this time, my Beacon message to you focused on how because of the pandemic we could not observe Holy Week or celebrate Easter gathered together in person. Instead, all our services were on Zoom. In that message, I quoted the 14<sup>th</sup> century mystic, Julian of Norwich: "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well."



Julian was right! Here we are three years later (THREE years!), and not only are we able to gather together in person for all our services, but we are also able to do so with masks optional and no social distancing. We are able to sing, take communion at the altar rail, and share the common cup. We can even enjoy fellowship together at coffee hour (what I refer to as Episcopalians' eighth sacrament. 😊 )

Two years ago at this time I wrote this: "The pandemic is easing, though we all must continue to be careful. After what for many of us has felt like a year-long Lent, we have arrived at a place where because of God's grace we can rejoice in the hope of a post-pandemic time. We don't quite know what that post-pandemic time will look like, but we know that we will be safer from infection than during the dark, pre-vaccine months."

Now we *do* know what a post-pandemic time looks like! Although Covid is still with us, I think that it is time for us to celebrate fully our having gotten through such a dark and uncertain time. Now is a time for singing and dancing, for feasting and laughing and loving. It is a time of renewal, of new birth, of resurrection. So as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, let's also celebrate with thanksgiving our own renewed lives during this spring of 2023.

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As I have done before, I would like to offer you one of my very favorite poems, a poem that I believe expresses the spirit of the Easter season, and the spirit of post-pandemic thanksgiving and celebration:

*i thank You God for most this amazing*

i thank You God for most this amazing day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything which is natural which is infinite which is yes

(i who have died am alive again today, and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth day of life and of love and wings: and of the gay great happening illimitably earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing breathing any—lifted from the no of all nothing—human merely being doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

--e.e. cummings

Peace and many Easter blessings,

*Ann* +

## Endowment News

### Why So Long??

Why do we report Endowment Fund numbers for last December in mid-March? Seems like a long-time lag, doesn't it? Here's why...



Oregon Community Foundation (OCF), which manages our Foundation money, has a lot more accounts than just ours. So many, in fact, that it takes over 170 managers to direct their two pools of investments, which contain nearly 3,000 individual investment accounts.

Investment results are also analyzed by Cambridge Associates, OCF's investment consultant. Once finalized, results are inspected and approved by

OCF's Board, which meets around six weeks after the calendar quarter closes.

Then, after all this number crunching, OCF prepares around 1,600 client reports, including ours. We value OCF because of their extensive diversification of assets, careful analysis and, most important, their results.

Considering the care OCF takes with our money, their six week- plus reporting lag looks pretty reasonable. Actually, I'm surprised it's not longer!

Duncan Murray, Chair

## In Memoriam

Mary Thomas, a long-time, devoted parishioner of St. Thomas passed away in March. She is the mother of Donn Thomas and the mother-in-law of Janice Thomas.



Mary was instrumental in developing the Lenten book of devotions, which she and Barbara Root assembled for many years using daily devotions shared by parish members. Mary also initiated the Monday Bible Study, which was carried on for a number of years with participation from many women of the parish.

Several years ago after the passing of her husband, Mary moved to Washington to be near her daughter. Mary's faithful spirit will always be a presence at St. Thomas and among her faith community.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies and giver of comfort: Deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn; that, casting all their care on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (BCP pg 505)

## Palm Sunday ~ April 2



## Outreach

The Outreach Committee is a vibrant and vital parish ministry as their current activities and planning for the year confirm. The 2023 parish budget has allocated \$5000 for outreach activities. To date



\$500 has been spent with a contribution to earthquake recovery for Turkey and Syria. This donation was made to Episcopal Relief and Development with additional contributions from individual from parish members. The committee has also contributed \$200 to the Rector's Discretionary Fund to assist Rev. Ann in assisting with emergency outreach.

Looking ahead to the remaining months in 2023, the Outreach Committee has agreed to support the following projects:

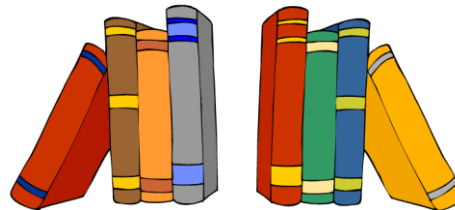
- Project Hope school backpacks in August
- Project Hope Thanksgiving boxes in November
- Provision of sweatsuits for the Head Start children in December
- Orchestration of Home Starter Kits contributions throughout the year
- Support of St. John the Divine and Church of the Resurrection for their direct assistance to the unhoused through the tiny huts program
- Additional relief assistance as natural disasters occur
- Consideration of monthly donations to community non-profits

The committee is considering additional ways to augment the Outreach budget. The first event being planned is a Father's Day bake sale with contributions from parishioners. Tricia Crisafulli has offered for fundraising another book release event with the publication of the second book in her Ohnita Harbor series later in the year.

Finally, the Outreach Committee wishes to remind parishioners of the Heifer Tube at the front of the sanctuary. Donated loose change is collected periodically for the purchase of livestock – cows, sheep, goats, pigs, chickens, even bees – to assist

families in developing nations to maintain a ready source of food and farm products. While the Outreach Committee identifies and directs our parish outreach efforts, all parishioners can participate in our parish outreach as they are able.

## St. Thomas Ladies Book Group



On Thursday, April 27 at 1:30 pm the St. Thomas Book Group will gather to enjoy their monthly review of the designated book of the month, The Optimist's Daughter by Eudora Welty. This dedicated group of avid readers never fails to enjoy a lively conversation about their latest read. Interested readers are always welcome to drop in for refreshments, engaging discussions and some book reviewing.

## Young Musicians' Program

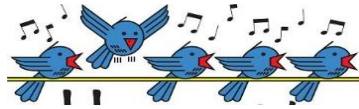
On Sunday, March 12 the young musician presenting during the prelude and offertory was DJ Jonas. DJ, a senior at Springfield High School, sings in the St. Thomas choir when his schedule permits. In addition he sings in three other choirs at SHS and is



a member of Oregon Children's Choir's Counterpoint. He was also chosen to be in the Oregon Ambassadors of Music choir in which he was able to travel to Europe and sing concerts across four countries. He has played in bands and sung in choirs since 6<sup>th</sup> grade. He can also play seven instruments and is working on learning four more. He will attend the University of Oregon this fall as a Music Composition major on a full ride scholarship.



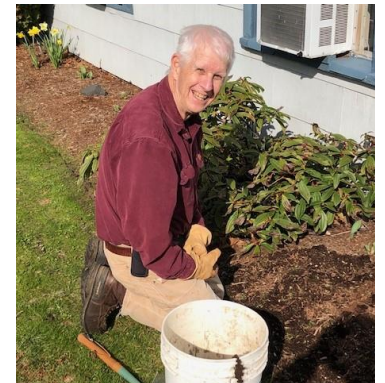
# Grace Notes



Our St. Thomas campus is maintained year-round with the diligent attention of our volunteer grounds crew. How often have you heard visitors and users remark about how beautiful our grounds look with the annual spring profusion of daffodils, the lush green lawn, the weeded beds featuring seasonal blooms? But even with this regular attention, an annual spring clean-up of our grounds is necessary. On Saturday, March 18 loving grace was personified in the cheerful labor of twenty-one parish faithful who weeded, pruned, raked, planted and power washed to prepare the church grounds for our Easter celebration. We can all give thanks for the profusion of grace notes that reverberated across our campus on March 18 – expressions of love from Paul and Sue Colvin, Andy Laird and Ruth McCully, Tom and Linda Whitehead, Joe Konieczka and Anne VanDerveer, Paul and Lucy Barnett, Jon Davies, Adeline Hoover, Maggie Meneghin and Cole Jones, Dan Paulson, John and Holly Spruance, Larry and Judy Wilson, Andy Stafford and Ann Gaillard.



Above: Sue Colvin (left) and Judy Wilson  
Right: Cole Jones and Maggie Meneghin  
Below left: Linda Whitehead and Larry Wilson (right)



Above: Andy Stafford; Paul and Lucy Barnett  
Below: Anne VanDerVeer; Joe Konieczka



Jon Davies (left) and Holly Spruance and Adeline Hoover (above)



The lunch crew – Paul Colvin and Tom Whitehead

## GrassRoots Garden



**Seed to Supper:** We at GrassRoots are excited to announce the return of the Seed to Supper program to our site! Since 2015, FFLC and OSU Extension MGs have partnered to offer Seed to Supper beginning gardening class for free in Lane County. The course was first developed by Oregon Food Bank, and then created into a 6-week class series in partnership with OSU Extension, and it is now offered throughout Oregon.

The series of classes are held over 6 weeks and cover the basics of beginning gardening geared towards folks gardening on a budget, so there is a focus on low-cost ways to successfully grow vegetables. Instructors are usually Master Gardeners and/or experienced vegetable gardeners who receive training on facilitating adult classes with a focus on hands-on learning, group participation and conversation. Ideally class participants form bonds and get to know one another, as they develop skills to increase their personal food security.

For this series, we're fortunate to have returning Master Gardeners and Seed to Supper instructors Doris Tai and Deb Schmidt, who will be joined in teaching by longtime GrassRoots participant, Jamie Levitan.

At GrassRoots, the lessons are taught indoors in the St. Thomas Church Library using a Power Point format. Since the class size is limited at 10 to 15 participants, there is plenty of time for group discussion. Following the indoors portion, we head outside for hands-on activities in the Garden. Starting in May, participants will also be invited to stay after class for our full spectrum garden lunch. The last day of class, participants help prepare the meal themselves from fresh garden produce and crops we've preserved or put up.

Our next Seed to Supper class series at GrassRoots starts April 19 and is every Wednesday from 10:30-12:30 through May 24. To register and for more information, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/5fpz2kj5>

**Annual Plant Sale:** We are also just around the corner from the annual Gardens Program Plant sale! This event is a major source of funds to help cover operating costs for both FFLC Gardens: GrassRoots Garden and the Youth Farm. Pre-ordering begins March 17 at noon at our online ordering site,

<https://plantsale.foodforlanecounty.org>.

Pre-orders are scheduled for pick up either Friday, April 7 or Saturday, April 8. There will also be plants available for purchase on-site at the Youth Farm on Saturday, April 15 from 10am-4pm. We suggest pre-ordering to have the best selection of over 37 different crops and multiple varieties of flowers, herbs, veggies all organically seeded and tended at the Youth Farm as well as strawberries and blueberries.

**Early Spring Hours:** T, Th, Sat, 9am-4pm.

GrassRoots Garden is located at 1465 Coburg Rd., across from Safeway, behind St. Thomas Episcopal Church. For more information, contact Merry Bradley 458-221-0652, [merrybradley@yahoo.com](mailto:merrybradley@yahoo.com).



### April Birthdays

3	Patty O'Neal
8	John Paulson
9	Barbara Root
10	Kathy O'Neal
13	Paul Colvin
21	Mary Lusk
30	Mason Duer



### April Anniversaries

16	Stu Hogg & Charlotte Heltman
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## Join the Stream Team

The *Stream Team* is responsible for the live streaming of our Sunday 10:00 am services. Team members must arrive early for the service to allow time to set up the computer service onto Facebook. Once it is set to go as the service begins, the assigned team member just needs to exit the program and turn off the computer at the end of the service. The Stream Team currently consists of two people, Paul Colvin and Joe Konieczka. But this “dream team” also attends to the audio/visual equipment used in the Parish Hall and Library. This tech duo could use additional members to join the team and share some of the tech responsibilities. Those interested in serving the parish in this way can call the office and JB will have someone from the current team contact you and arrange for training.



there was the caveat, for if March were to come in like a lamb, it would go out as a lion. And every year as the seasons change, I recall that childhood forecast. However, this year it seems like the lion has roared throughout March, with some occasional yawns allowing for the sun to shine through.

These musings were further inspired by the snow that greeted us in the morning on this day late in March – big thick snowflakes cascading down on our forest hilltop and settling over the hayfield in a soggy white coating. Weather and all its changeable dynamics often prompt my reflections, for weather is an active force of the natural world, influenced by the change of seasons, the movement of the jet stream and even the impacts of human habitation. Ahhh, there it is again – that *climate change* issue. With the ever-increasing world population and the use of resources, how can we not have an influence on the earth and all of its dynamic processes, including weather?

The changes of seasons seem to be out of their historical alignment; water is more scarce as drought persists; weather systems are more dramatic and destructive; forest fires rage with greater frequency; air quality is impacted with all manner of pollutants. So what to do? How to respond? It is heartening that our St. Thomas family and users are committing to Creation Care in thoughtful ways. Recycling paper, cans and bottles and even electronics may be small acts in the grand scheme of things, but small acts practiced by many will over time contribute to significant change.

So embrace the weather and its restorative benefits as the reservoirs fill and the water table rises. There is always *hope* as the seasons change – a new chapter or a fresh start. Just as the daffodils push up through a crust of late March snow or open their bright blooms despite a hailing onslaught, there is *hope* to weather the storms of life and prevail in bright profusion.

## Sabbatical Send-off



Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 16 for a special celebration – a party is planned for Rev. Ann and Lee before they depart for Ann’s three-month sabbatical. We are especially grateful for Ann’s loving and devoted ministry to our faith community during the past five and a half years, navigating and prayerfully encouraging us through challenging times. St. Thomas is a stronger parish because of her grace. Her sabbatical affords her the opportunity to rest, reflect, and re-charge, and the parish will benefit from her restored spirit and enlightening reflections on Celtic Christianity.

This send-off celebration is an opportunity to wish Ann and Lee safe travels, but it is also a celebration of our faith community and the loving spirit that resides at St. Thomas Episcopal Church. You will want to sign the bulletin board card to express your good wishes to Ann and Lee. Then together we will look forward to Rev. Ann’s return in mid-July when we will once again celebrate!

## Reflections

As a child this old adage about the transition from winter to spring was often repeated – *March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb*. But then



# *Holy Week and Easter 2023*



## **The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday (April 2)**

10:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Palms and the Holy Eucharist

*We shout "Hosannah!", our palms are blessed, and we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Yet triumph turns to tragedy, shouts of "Hosanna" to "Crucify him," as the Passion Gospel of St. Matthew is read at the end of the service.*

## **Holy Wednesday (April 5)**

5:00 p.m. The Way of the Cross

*For centuries, Christians of many denominations have conducted services (known as the Way of the Cross or the Stations of the Cross) that commemorate Jesus' journey from being condemned to death by Pilate to his entombment. We will be using the Way of the Cross service from Celtic Daily Prayer. A quiet, meditative service.*

## **Maundy Thursday (April 6)**

5:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Liturgy

*The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin "mandatum" which means "command;" Christ's Great Commandment is that we love one another as he has loved us. At this service we reenact his demonstration of this commandment through the ritual of foot washing (optional). We will also commemorate the first Lord's Supper. The service concludes with the solemn stripping of the altar.*

## **Good Friday (April 7)**

12:00 noon The Good Friday Liturgy

*This solemn service includes the reading of St. John's Passion Gospel and the veneration of the Cross.*

## **Easter Eve (April 8)**

10:00 a.m. Holy Saturday Liturgy

*A short, simple service of readings and prayers.*

8:00 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter (at St. Mary's)

*The kindling of new fire; dramatic readings of the stories of Israel's redemption; renewal of Baptismal vows; the first Eucharist of Easter; a festive gathering afterwards. St. Thomas is joining with St. Mary's, St. Matthew's, and St. John the Divine in celebrating the central feast of the Christian year.*

## **The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day (April 9)**

10:00 a.m. Festal Eucharist

*Friends old and new join the St. Thomas family to celebrate the Sunday of the Resurrection. All are welcome. An Easter Egg Hunt for children will follow the 10:00 service.*