



The Beacon

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

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

May 2023

Volume 24 Issue 5

In this Issue:

- Rector's Message & Sabbatical Send-off
- Endowment News
- Easter Season
- Book Group
- GrassRoots Garden
- Creation Care
- Outreach
- Diocesan Youth Event
- Grace Notes
- Reflections

Vestry:

- Cindy Jensen, Sr. Warden
- Jon Davies, Jr. Warden
- Lucy Barnett
- Chris King
- Mike Richardson
- Holly Spruance
- Joe Tulacz
- Linda Whitehead
- Beverly Jackson, Clerk

Rector – Rev. Ann Gaillard

Parish Administrator – JB Hoover

Parish Treasurer – Anne VanDerveer

1465 Coburg Road
Eugene, Oregon 97401
Phone: 541-343-5241

Email:
stthomaschurcheugene@gmail.com

Beacon Editor – Cindy Jensen

Website – <https://st-thomaseugene.net/>



From the Rector's desk ~ A Sabbatical Send-off

Rev. Ann departed on her three-month sabbatical with a homily sent to all St. Thomas parishioners highlighting her plans for a pilgrimage that will allow for rest, reflection and renewal as she immerses herself in prayer, study and exploration of Celtic Christianity.

On Sunday, April 16 our St. Thomas Faith community gave Rev. Ann and Lee a sabbatical send-off. Parishioners signed the bulletin board with messages of good wishes. Postcards will be posted from New York where Rev. Ann will participate in a period of study, prayer and reflection at the Holy Cross Monastery; then more postcards will be added from Iona in Scotland where Rev. Ann will explore the cradle of Celtic Christianity. We can look forward to future sermons sharing her experiences and a deeper understanding of Celtic Christianity, which fosters, in Rev. Ann's words, a spirituality that calls the modern world to reawaken to the sacredness of Earth and every human being. We will keep Rev. Ann and Lee in our prayers and feel their presence among us thanks to nearly six years of loving pastoral care.



Celebrating Rev. Ann; signing the bulletin board card; John & Holly Spruance hosting; and parishioners enjoying the festivities.



The Easter Season

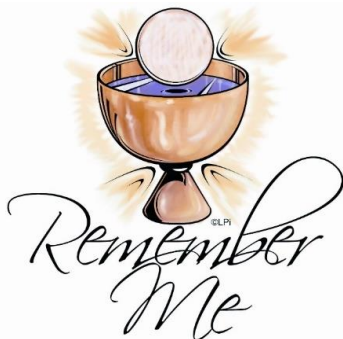
Welcome happy morning age to age shall say...



It was indeed a happy and glorious morning, albeit rainy, when we at St. Thomas rejoiced in the risen Lord and celebrated Easter. The daffodil river was in full bloom; the children dug up their buried *alleluias*; the choir made a joyful noise; the pews were filled with parishioners and visiting friends and family; and Easter eggs were enthusiastically recovered from the grounds.



We are now in the Easter Season, or Eastertide, when the altar and vestments are adorned with white and gold hues. On May 28 we will celebrate Pentecost followed by Trinity Sunday on June 4, after which we will resume Ordinary Time and the color green will again grace the altar and vestments and frame our monthly newsletter.



Endowment News

Young Musicians Program Lives On!

Just a few weeks ago guest vocalist J.D. Davis lent his wonderful talent to our service.



J.D., a member of the Oregon Ambassadors of Music Choir, recently returned from a European Young Musicians' Program.

Your support of our Endowment Fund planted the seed of this new ministry. Our own Keri Davis and an anonymous donor nurtured it and made it an ongoing gift to our church. Please join me in thanking Keri for her efforts.

With your continued support of our Endowment Fund we'll see more such new ministries taking root at our church – and more J.D. Davises!

Duncan Murray
Chair, Endowment Fund Board

St. Thomas Book Group

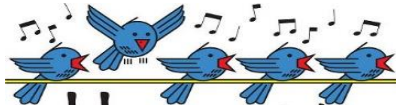


Another month and another good read for the St. Thomas Book Group. The selection for May is The Fire and the Ore by Olivia Hawker. The group will gather for their monthly discussion and sharing on Thursday, May 25 at 1:30 pm in the parish library. Interested readers are welcome.

Book Group members offer their used books for sale, so check out the bookcase in the narthex. Paperback books sell for fifty cents and hard cover books sell for a dollar with proceeds going to St. Thomas Outreach projects. And don't forget the parish library where books are available for check out, *on your honor*.

Expand your world; discover new horizons; enjoy a good laugh; learn something new – read.

Grace Notes



Palm crosses for Palm Sunday are a special Episcopal tradition. This editor has participated in Episcopal churches from San Francisco to Arcata, CA; North Carolina to Fort Bragg, CA; Georgia to Eugene. All provided palm crosses on Palm Sunday. But someone must craft those intricately folded palm fronds into crosses that are distributed and treasured from year to year. At St. Thomas we have a master palm cross crafter in Lori Fisher, who once again, with her able assistants, Joe Konieczka and Anne VanDerveer, instructed, demonstrated, and encouraged a team of palm cross crafters. Their grace resulted in a bounty of palm crosses for our Palm Sunday celebration.

Creation Care at St. Thomas

It has been a year since St. Thomas activated the parish *creation care initiative* first with paper recycling, then redeemable bottle and can collections for St. John the Divine, and finally collection and proper disposal of electronics. An impressive amount of electronics was contributed by parishioners, collected by Rev. Ann and JB Hoover, and picked up by Gary Jensen who then delivered to Next Step for cleaning, reconditioning or dismantling for recycling. Next Step employees cheerfully received a truck load of electronic recycling on March 30. This effort was so successful that we will repeat it at a future designated date. Thank you to all who contributed to our *creation care* efforts.



Sorting...
Unloading...
& hauling away



Sometimes
a picture is worth
a thousand words.



GrassRoots Garden

Spring is at last springing here at GrassRoots; the weeds are growing fast, the orchard is coming into bloom, and there is birdsong all around.



We are devoting this month's newsletter to the birds of the Garden, who provide important ecosystem services as well as entertainment for we humans who enjoy listening to their songs and watching their antics.

Early this spring, garden participant Tim Fiedler built us 8 new birdhouses sized for chickadees, western bluebirds and tree swallows, and we put them up around the perimeter of the Garden and in the orchard. Our hope is that larger local populations of these particular species of birds, which in the summer primarily eat caterpillars, beetles, and many other insects, will help us keep on top of our pest species here at GrassRoots. We're especially interested to see if they manage to help keep down the click beetle population, the adult form of the formidable wire worms that we are trying to rein in.

We are happy to report that as of the writing of this newsletter there is activity in several of the birdhouses! If the houses are not showing activity, we will move them around trying to place them in different locations to see if we get more interest in other spots.

Some other notable bird activities at the Garden in the past few weeks include frequent visits to the swale from our annually returning pair of mallard ducks named Donald and Daisy, a hummingbird gathering nest material from the fluff of the cattails in the swale, and a crow taking a bird bath in a puddle of water on top of one our greenhouses (where we have a patch in the plastic that is sagging).

Oh, the happy joy of spring unfurling! Come out and join us.

New Spring Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 9:00am to 4:00pm. 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.

Mark Your Calendars

On Saturday, June 10, St Thomas will join the community-wide work party in the GrassRoots Garden. This is your chance to dig in the dirt, weed, and rake with your fellow parishioners, and perhaps get better acquainted with someone from church. In the process you will be making a valuable contribution to the effort to help feed the hungry in our community. Bring your work gloves, wear your garden clothes and join us at 10:00 am.

Young Musicians' Program



Isabella Willis, the latest recipient of the St. Thomas Young Musicians' Scholarship, is a freshman at LCC and is majoring in Arts and Communication. She also plays the guitar. She has been in 17 productions, the most recent being "Something Rotten!" at Actor's cabaret as Portia. Her favorite past roles have included the Leading Player (Pippin,) Snoopy (You're a Good Man Charley Brown,) and Portia. Her current show, Xanadu, opens May 12 at the Very Little Theatre. She is also a member of the Emerald Valley Voices Choir.

During the service on Sunday, April 23 Isabella performed the prelude and offertory to the delight of our St. Thomas congregation.



Outreach

To keep the parish informed of our Outreach activities and expenditures, the Outreach committee provides this report. As of April 21, 2023, there is \$4938 remaining in the Outreach account after



expenditures in March of \$500 to Episcopal Relief & Development for earthquake relief and \$200 to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. Immediate expenditures will be contributed to the following:

- \$200 Heifer International (world hunger)
- \$500 Episcopal Relief & Development, Spring Match (world hunger)
- \$500 Sleep In Heavenly Peace (beds for kids)
- \$500 Eugene Police Department, Community Cares (crisis response in our community).

Outreach will set aside the following funds for local projects scheduled to take place later in the year:

- \$500 Project Hope, backpack project
- \$500 Project Hope, Thanksgiving boxes project
- \$1600 Head Start sweatsuits project.

Outreach will focus on these specific events each month through the end of the year:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| May | Home Starter Kits donations |
| June 10 | GrassRoots Garden workday |
| July | Peanut Butter Sunday |
| August | Project Hope backpack packing event |
| September | Ohnita Harbor book launch #2 fundraiser |
| October | Home Stater Kits donations |
| November | Project Hope Thanksgiving boxes packing event |
| Nov.-Dec | Head Start sweatsuits |
| . | Project HUGS donations in support of St. John the Divine |

On June 4 Westminster Presbyterian Church is sponsoring a walk to raise funds for Food for Lane County. The Outreach committee agreed to support this event with parish participation. All money collected will go directly to FFLC.

Diocesan Youth Event at GrassRoots

The diocesan Newsletter reported on a recent youth event at the GrassRoots Garden in the April edition. The following is an excerpt.

On Saturday, April 18, four youth leaders and 18 youth from across our Diocese gathered to celebrate Earth Day at the community garden at St. Thomas, Eugene. In the morning, the group rolled up their sleeves, quite literally, and partnered with GrassRoots to tend to their 2.5-acre garden. After working in the garden, the group gathered for a garden-grown vegan lunch and learned more about the mission of GrassRoots Garden from their director, Merry Bradley.



"Our youth worked hard, both in the garden and helping prepare lunch for all the volunteers," said the Rev. Chris Craun, Missioner for Thriving Congregations. "We learned about how this work can help fight against climate change and enjoyed a beautiful day in the sun and dirt."

Following a day of productive work, the youth joined in a time of prayer to honor and celebrate Creation. They reflected on what they had learned at the garden and how they could participate in caring for our creation beyond that day.

Reflections

The following is shared with thanks to Lee Gaillard for reminding the editor of this wonderful poem.

To Daffodils

by Robert Herrick

Fair Daffodils, we weep to see
You haste away so soon;
As yet the early-rising sun
Has not attain'd his noon.

Stay, stay,
Until the hasting day
Has run
But to the even-song;
And, having pray'd together, we
Will go with you along.

We have short time to stay, as you,
We have as short a spring;
As quick a growth to meet decay,
As you, or anything.
We die
As your hours do, and dry
Away,
Like to the summer's rain;
Or as the pearls of morning's dew,
Ne'er to be found again.

May Birthdays

4 Lottie Rohde
7 Joe Konieczka
16 Paul Barnett
26 Ann Gaillard
30 Mark Pezzoni



Contributions to the Beacon from parish ministries or individuals are welcome. Please send ministry reports, Reflections or Grace Notes to the editor at lajotkdk@aol.com. If possible, submissions are to be typed in Times Roman 12 font and single spaced, and received by the 25th of the month preceding Beacon posting.

