



The Beacon

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

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

June 2023

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- Jon Davies, Jr. Warden
- Lucy Barnett
- Chris King
- Mike Richardson
- Holly Spruance
- Joe Tulacz
- Linda Whitehead
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A Sabbatical Message ~

The following is an excerpt from the May letter sent by Rev. Ann, currently on sabbatical.

Dear parishioners,

Greetings from Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, New York! I'm about halfway through my stay here. It took a few days to become acclimated to the rhythms of the day here; plus I couldn't enjoy the outdoors much because the weather was as cold and rainy as when I left Eugene! But the past few days have been glorious – sunny and warm.



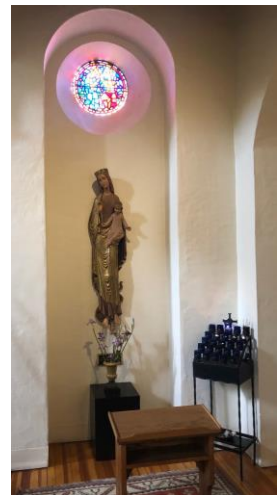
The river below the monastery is glittering, the trees are almost in full leaf, and the narcissus are still blooming. I've been taking long walks through the woods and over the mid-Hudson walking bridge, but I haven't yet had a chance to walk the outdoor labyrinth because it's still too muddy. In addition to being outdoors, I've been reading, enjoying meals with the brothers, and praying with them each day as well as doing my own devotions in the Celtic Christian tradition; it's fun to see the intersection between the Celtic and the Anglican/Episcopal traditions. My room is very comfortable and overlooks the grounds and the river, and I have a little kitchenette, bathroom, and sitting room. I could not be better situated.

Best of all is the utter peace and quiet indoors and outdoors. The only sounds most of the time are the chiming of the bell in the tower to call us to services, the birds chirping outside my window, and the occasional put-putting of the fishing boats. Sometimes I'll hear the lonely sound of the train that runs on the other side of the river.

I'm running out of space, so I'll close by saying that I could not be happier, and that I'm taking lots of pictures for the Beacon!

Much love and blessings,

On the following page are photographs sent by Rev. Ann to show the view from her monastery window, features of the monastery and scenes enjoyed on her walks on the grounds.



Endowment Fund News

First Quarter Results Up Slightly

As of March 31, 2023 your Endowment Fund totaled \$236,402.97. This represents an increase of \$11,224.48, or 4.99% for the quarter and year to date.



Compared to the same quarter in 2022, The Fund declined by \$21,940.49 or 8.49%.

Given the difficult financial conditions in our country, these results should come as no surprise.

Whatever the past results, we look to a brighter financial climate with hope and know that we'll once again be using your generous gifts to create new and exciting ministries at St. Thomas.

As always, thank you for your continued support of The St. Thomas Endowment Fund!

Duncan Murray, Chair

St. Thomas Book Group



The St. Thomas Ladies' Book Group selection for June is an enlightening story of the German occupation of Paris during WWII and the particular impact on the American Library in Paris. It is an absorbing, often heart-wrenching read. Interested readers are encouraged to read along, or better yet, join the group, which will meet On Thursday, June 22 at 1:30 pm in the parish library with Sandra Murray hosting.

Return to Ordinary Time

On May 28 we celebrated Pentecost and worshipers wore red signifying the breath of the Holy Spirit. We are imbued with Christ's presence and charged with spreading the *good news*.



Sunday the color green returns to the altar and church vestments symbolizing the determination of Christians to not just grow the church but to share the love of Christ in word and deed. As has been reported in prior issues of the Beacon, when St. Patrick brought Christianity to the people of Ireland, he used the shamrock to explain the Trinity. This

became the symbol of Ireland and is reflected in the traditional Irish or Celtic knot.



Graduation Season

June is the time of year when we honor our grads by congratulating them at this hallmark moment in their lives and encouraging them as they embark on the next chapter in their lives. We have two special grads among our St. Thomas youth.



Lottie Rohde is graduating from South Eugene High School and will take a gap year to work and consider her next step. Maddie Baker-Fones is graduating from Marist High School and will attend Whitworth College in Spokane, WA where she will major in nursing. Consider sending a card of good wishes to these young women.

June Birthdays

- 6 Shirley Collard
- 7 Lori Fisher
- 7 Margaret Heltman
- 8 Beverly Jackson
- 16 Eloise Bushnell
- 17 Janet Calvert
- 19 Anne VanDerveer



June Anniversaries

- 6 Duncan and Sandra Murray

Grace Notes



Coffee Hour, or as Rev. Frank Moss calls it – *the eighth sacrament* – is a wonderful St. Thomas tradition, and whether you just pop in for a quick cup of coffee and the exchange of a few pleasantries, or you take time to indulge in the goodies and settle in for some lively conversation, it is indeed a time of shared grace. But the tradition does require a bit of effort – making the coffee, heating water for tea, setting out supplies, providing a few simple treats of sweets and savories, and the all-important clean up. More importantly, to sustain this tradition, parishioners need to sign up occasionally to do the honors. Some of our congregants are regular coffee hour hosts, they merit a special note of appreciation for all their grace. But others are encouraged to take a turn, and all are encouraged to take some extra time following Sunday worship to engage with your fellow parishioners over a cup of coffee.



Outreach

The May Beacon provided an extensive overview of St. Thomas Outreach giving plans for the remainder of 2023. In May parishioners contributed sheets and blankets to the Home Starter Kits project.



In June parishioners are encouraged to participate in two events. On Sunday June 4 at 1:00 pm at Maurie Jacobs Park there will be a two mile walk for Food for Lane County orchestrated by the Creation Care Team at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Walkers will gather at the Sports Field, retrieve their pledge forms, and enjoy a walk along the river. Those unable to walk can make a donation to Food for Lane County and place it in the offering plate on Sunday June 4 or June 11. On Saturday, June 10 there is a GrassRoots Garden workday. Wear your

grubbies, bring your garden gloves and perhaps some garden tools marked with your name and contribute a few hours to this important effort. You will enjoy the garden and some good exercise while benefiting an essential resource for Food for Lane County.

Ushers

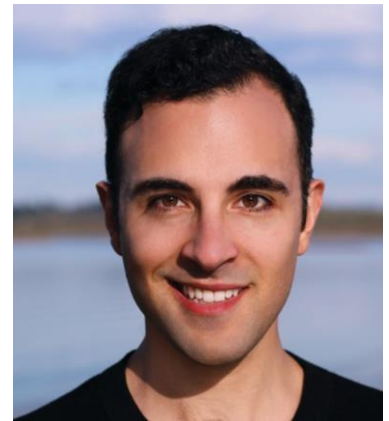


We are happy to welcome Cole Jones to our St. Thomas usher team. Cole works as an electrician in Eugene and lives on a farm outside Harrisburg with his wife Maggie Meneghin. Maggie has served as an usher during 2023, but in the fall, you will see her singing in the choir rather than ushering. Thanks to both Cole and Maggie for their dedication and commitment to St. Thomas.

Saundra Murray
Ushers Team Leader

Young Musicians Forum

On Sunday, May 21 Thomas Guastavino delighted St. Thomas worshipers with his vocal talents. Thomas is completing his junior year as a Music Education major at the University of Oregon. He will graduate with specializations in



Choral and Elementary music education. Additionally, Thomas is an active member of the local performing arts community as a section leader with Eugene Symphony Chorus and Eugene Opera and as teacher, conductor and actor/singer in productions at The Shedd Institute for the Performing Arts. This summer he will sing with the Oregon Bach Festival Chorus for the second year in a row and looks forward to student-teaching in the year to follow.



GrassRoots Garden

We are now about one year out from the invention of the modified-yogurt-container wire worm trap, and we have learned a few things in the last year about how to use them effectively.



With one year of trial and error under our belt, we thought we would pass along our observations and share our evolving understanding of wire worm behavior.

In the fall, we embarked on a large scale dormant-season trapping project with the idea that during winter on our heavily leaf-mulched sections, by far the tastiest food around would be the potato and onion scraps and manure in our modified-yogurt-container-traps. Surely no wire worm could resist such a feast! After a few months of a host of traps sitting in these sections, I excitedly exhumed them to find... nearly no wire worms in them. My conclusion: either there are no wire worms in the section, or they are not tempted by traps in the winter.

The former answer is indeed too good to be true. In raking off leaf mulch this spring we found many wire worms in these sections. However, on further reflection this makes some sense-with cold winter temperatures, many organisms metabolisms slow way down and activity comes to a near halt. We now believe that the wire worms also slow way down and are somewhat hibernating/dormant themselves during this window. With the warmer weather we have been having, wire worms have again been going into the traps, so in future we will concentrate our trapping efforts during the warmer months for best results.

We have also discovered that traps really ought to be placed when a crop is being planted rather than a couple weeks after. The accompanying photos are of a bed where we retroactively placed traps a couple weeks after transplanting, and a bed where we placed traps the day after we planted. The difference is remarkable and

replicated in several beds around the garden. The take-away: it is best to transplant and place traps at the same time to best control the wire worm feeding on the crop plants. We will be sure to keep you posted on more developments in our wire worm trapping program as we continue to learn how best to keep their population in check.

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.



GrassRoots Garden efforts to fight the battle of the wire worms



Reflections

Ahhh (SIGH) – Aaachoo! Yes, allergy season in the Willamette Valley is here. The grass is high; the hay is budding; the fir trees are showing their bright green new growth; wildflowers are blooming; deciduous trees are ablaze with bright blossoms; and Scotch Broom is abundant. Whether working outside in the garden, forest or pasture, or just taking a stroll, our enjoyment of all this spring growth is tinged with weepy eyes, stuffy noses and sinus headaches. The price some of us pay for such lush valley vegetation. Local tribes called the Willamette Valley *the valley of sickness*. Once the Camus was harvested, they had the good sense to retreat to the mountains when the valley was in full bloom. For us, our cars are dusted with a fine yellow coating and our waste bins are filled with tissues, but we prevail through this annual season of allergies.

Despite the side effects, the wonder of it all still thrills me, and I take delight in every wildflower as the rotation unfolds through the season beginning with the spring beauty and trillium, the lady slipper orchid, the wild iris, salt and pepper, candy flower and Camus. But not the Scotch Broom! Despite its bright yellow blooms, this terrible beauty is a destructive invasive with pollen that casts its range far and wide.

Getting back into the garden is also a great joy as once again we can dig in the dirt, address those overgrown weeds, and plant seeds and promising garden starts. I never cease to marvel at this seasonal cycle of nature as the swallows return to re-establish their nests, songbirds take up residence in the bird houses, tree frogs re-emerge from their muddy hibernation, and lizards come out to sunbathe on the patio.

This year the verdant glory is not confined to Oregon. A recent trip through California afforded us the opportunity to witness the sensational wildflower bloom as we drove into the Antelope Valley Wildlife Refuge and hiked through the Torrey Pines State Park. Even with the impact of climate change and man-made disruption to the environment, the divinely inspired forces of nature have amazing healing capacities. It is these forces of nature that encourage us to thoughtfully partner

with nature to care for and protect what God has so graciously provided.



Above: Wildflower bloom in the Antelope Valley, CA
Below: California Coastal Dahlias at Point Loma, CA.



Committee reports and articles for the Beacon are welcome. Please submit to Cindy Jensen at LAJotKDK@aol.com by the 25th of the month.