



# *The Beacon*

## *St. Thomas Episcopal Church*

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

May/June 2024

Volume 25 Issue 5

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### *From the Rector's Desk*

Due to the pandemic, for far too long laity and clergy of our diocese have been unable to get together fully in person. Since 2020 Diocesan Convention has been held on Zoom; Diocesan Council and nearly all other lay-clergy groups have also been meeting on Zoom (or hybrid at best). Bishop Akiyama's election had to be held on Zoom, and very few people were allowed to attend her consecration at Trinity Cathedral because of pandemic restrictions.

That's why we now have an exciting opportunity to get together as a diocese to see and talk to each other in person. On Saturday, June 1, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Salem, the diocese is holding a Renewal Gathering of all laity and clergy. Not only will the event be like a reunion, giving us all a chance (finally!) to reconnect with friends and colleagues, but it also will be a wonderful opportunity to meet and get to know our bishop. For four years, many folks in our diocese have missed being able to interact personally with each other and our bishop—interaction that simply isn't the same on Zoom.

Just as exciting, our guest presenter will be the Rt. Rev. Robert Wright, Bishop of the Diocese of Atlanta. Bishop Wright is highly regarded in the Episcopal Church and has the reputation of being a very fine speaker. In addition, he is one of five finalists in the election to the position of Presiding Bishop, which will take place this summer at General Convention. So here's a chance to get acquainted with someone who might very well be our new Presiding Bishop for the next nine years.

The event will begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude by 4:00 p.m. I hope you will join me and other folks from around the diocese to celebrate our reunion, meet and get to know Bishop Akiyama, and hear from Bishop Wright. If you are planning to attend, please go to this link to reserve a space and your complementary, catered lunch: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ecwo-2024-diocesan-renewal-gathering-all-are-welcome-tickets-881569115957?aff=oddtcreator>.

I hope to see you there.

Peace and many blessings,

## Endowment Fund News

### Matching Gift Fund a Success!

Thanks to your generosity, we're making wonderful progress in our \$5,000 Matching Gift Fund Challenge!



I'm more than pleased to tell you that as of this writing we're at \$3,800! So we're just \$1,200 shy of our goal. I'm confident that we'll be closer than this by the time you read *The Beacon*.

As a reminder, here's how our Matching Gift Fund Challenge works:

- **Goal: Raise \$5,000;**
- **Purpose: Raise \$2,500 for Young Musicians at St. Thomas scholarships & \$2,500 for yet to be determined new ministries;**
- **\$2,500 to be raised from St. Thomas members;**
- **\$2,500 matching the above has been donated by The Endowment Fund Board;**
- **How to donate:**
  - **Pick up an addressed envelope below the sign in the narthex;**
  - **Put your cash or check made out to St. Thomas Endowment Fund in the collection plate or mail it in the addressed envelope.**
  - **Drop it off at our Church Office.**
  - **Your donation of \$100, matched by the Board's \$100, will bring another Young Musician to one of our services.**

On behalf of The Endowment Fund Board – Thank you. And please remember that no donation is too small and every donation is much appreciated.

Duncan Murray  
Endowment Board Chair

## Apostle's Shield

James was a son of Zebedee, a Galilean fisherman, and his wife Salome, thought to be the sister of Mary, the mother of Jesus, making James and his younger brother John cousins of Jesus. James and John were called to be Jesus' disciples soon after Peter and his brother Andrew.



James and John and Peter were the three disciples who were closest to Jesus. Often he would take only these three with him as special friends. They were the ones who witnessed the Transfiguration.

According to the New Testament, James was the second of the apostles to die (after Judas Iscariot), and the first to be martyred (in AD 44). We are told that he was beheaded on the order of King Herod Agrippa, perhaps because of James' fiery temper; he and his brother John were referred to as "Sons of Thunder." James is often referred to as "James the Great" to distinguish him from another disciple named James; "the Great" simply refers to the fact that James son of Zebedee was older than the other James.

Legend has it that James traveled all over Spain, which is why he is Spain's patron saint. The scallop shell is his symbol. There are two versions of the legend surrounding the use of this shell as symbolic of St. James. One legend claims that after James' death in Jerusalem, his disciples shipped his body to the Iberian Peninsula to be buried in what is now Santiago. Off the coast of Spain a heavy storm hit the ship, and the body was lost to the ocean. After some time, however, the body washed ashore undamaged, covered in scallops.

The second legend recounts that after James' death his body was mysteriously transported by a ship with no crew back to the Iberian Peninsula to be buried. As James' ship approached land, a wedding was taking place on the shore. The young bridegroom was on horseback, and on seeing the ship approaching, his horse got spooked, and the

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horse and rider plunged into the sea. Through miraculous intervention, the horse and rider emerged from the water alive, covered in sea-shells.

St. Thomas' shield of James the Great depicts scallop shells and a sword, the latter indicating the weapon used to kill him.

## Parish Opportunities

The care and maintenance of our St. Thomas campus facilities requires an ongoing commitment on the part of our parishioners. We assign our annual budget to the larger maintenance concerns outlined by our Buildings and Grounds Committee. They determine the most essential needs and secure



bids for the large projects, which then must be approved by the Vestry. But there are always smaller maintenance tasks that can be accomplished by willing parishioners. Consider these tasks as opportunities to join with other parishioners to build community and strengthen our faith inspired relationships. The Buildings and Grounds Committee has outlined the tasks listed below. Some of these tasks require fairly good mobility, while others do not. There will be a whiteboard in the Narthex for parish members to commit to a task. Gather a team and sign up for your chosen task. You will be contacted with directions and provision of supplies, and a schedule for work completion will be determined.

- **Shed clean out** – Our shed that stores lawn mowers needs to be emptied and reorganized. Skill set required: ability to organize and to get rid of things.
- **Old church minutes need to be scanned** – We want to digitize our old records so we can get rid of the books we have to make them easier to store. Skill set required: ability to push buttons and ability to laugh and tell stories during a very boring job.
- **Stream team player** – We need another person or two willing to be responsible for starting the Facebook live stream on Sunday mornings. Skill set required: ability to follow instructions, be

there a few minutes early on Sunday and not afraid to push buttons on a computer.

- **Lawn Mower** – We need another person or two willing to help take care of the lawn. Skill set required: ability to ride/guide lawnmower.
- **Paint trim on CCC building** – There is some trim that needs to be painted on the CCC building. Skills required: Ability to paint trim while standing on the ground. Skill set required: ability to paint trim while on the ladder and overlook the other flaws on a very old building.
- **Paint wood above walkway on Head Start building** – This would require climbing a ladder to get to the wood, but once on the roof covered walkway, the painting would be while you were standing. Skill set required: painting and ladder work. (a great place to work on your tan)
- **Paint one wall in women's restroom** – We are having a little drywall work done and will need to repaint the wall – Skill set required: ability to paint and not make a big mess.
- **Paint one wall and a few repair sites in the men's restroom** – Skill set required: ability to paint and not make a big mess.

## St. Thomas Book Group



The members of the St. Thomas Ladies Book Group are set for some good summer reads. In May the selected book is Nobody's Fool by Richard Russo. Members will gather on Thursday, May 23 at 1:30 pm in the Parish Library where they will share their impressions of the book and enjoy some lively conversation.

The assigned book for June is The Bean Trees by Barbara Kingsolver. Another lively gathering is scheduled for June 27 at 1:30 pm at the usual location. The book group gatherings always include the sharing of tasty treats to add spice to their book discussions. Interested readers are always welcome.

## Grace Notes



Sunday worship services at St. Thomas are consistently moments of *grace*, and the Easter service on March 31 was no exception. In fact, profound *grace* was experienced. Rev. Ann's powerful sermon, the choir's uplifting rendition of *Alleluia*, the shared communion of the congregation, and the vibrant floral display all contributed to our celebration of the risen Lord. With acknowledgment to resident photographer Larry Wilson, the photos capture some of the moments of grace that enriched our Easter service experience.



## Outreach

The Outreach Committee continues to do good work on behalf of St. Thomas with thoughtful utilization of the \$1400 budgeted for 2024 in addition to amounts already reserved for special



including \$1500 for the Christmas sweatsuit gifts for Head Start students, \$500 for Project Hope, and \$500 for Thanksgiving boxes.

A request was made from Rev. Nancy Gallagher of St. John the Divine for assistance in paying for their porta potty services for their parking lot ministry. The committee voted to approve \$100 to assist with this service. The committee also is considering scheduling Patty and Steve Buss of One Hope to come and speak to the congregation regarding the Cottages of Hope and ways St. Thomas can assist with that effort. In addition the committee is planning for a fall Sunday Brunch fundraising effort to support the many outreach projects to which St. Thomas is committed. The following schedule highlights the timing of those projects.

- July 7 Peanut Butter Sunday collection
- Aug Project Hope backpack project
- Sept Sunday brunch Outreach fundraiser
- Oct Home Starter Kits collection
- Nov One Hope Thanksgiving boxes project
- Dec H.U.G.S. drive collection  
Head Start sweatsuit project

The risen Jesus comes to us, again and again, inviting us to experience resurrection right here and right now. As the Sufi poet Rumi puts it, "I don't care if you're dead! Jesus is here, and he wants to resurrect somebody!"

## ***Young Musicians Forum***

This edition of the Beacon recognizes three young musicians who performed during St. Thomas services in March and April. On Easter Sunday two members of the Marist High School choir joined our choir. Our own Keri Davis is working to rebuild the Marist choir program, the Spartones, which is now made up of nine freshmen girls. Emily Warner and Renata Russell enhanced our choir to proclaim Easter *Alleluias* throughout the service.



On April 21 Shae Brodsky performed the prelude and sang during the offertory. Shae is a sophomore at Churchill High School in Eugene. He has studied under Bruce Haines at the Shedd Institute for five years, and during summer of 2023 he participated in the Oregon Bach Festival.

Shae has been accepted to study at the prestigious Berklee School of Music this summer. He placed first in the district for bass soloist and will be competing at the Oregon state championships in April.

## ***A Welcoming Faith Community***

At their April meeting, the Vestry engaged in a thoughtful discussion regarding our support of using the *rainbow* on the *Beacon* and church signage to proclaim our commitment as a welcoming faith community that honors diversity and embraces all those who engage in worship and activities on our campus.

Rev. Ann shared with the Vestry the statistics that support the reason why young adults have avoided church affiliation due to the perception that faith communities demonstrate disdain for LGBTQ people or those of particular ethnic groups. Lucy

Barnett suggested this thoughtful article, "Beyond rainbow flags: what it means to make church safe for LGBTQ people." To read it, here is the link: <https://christiancitizen.us/beyond-rainbow-flags-what-it-means-to-make-church-safe-for-lgbtq-people/>.



This quote from the article references Genesis and the meaning of the rainbow symbol.

In the Bible, God puts a rainbow in the sky for Noah as a promise of safety, and an apology for lack of safety in the past. Flood waters have covered the Earth, suffocating life and tossing the ark on waves of uncertainty. But when Noah and his family see God's rainbow in the sky, they know that things will be different now. No more destroying rain. Instead, safety—for all living things, not just a lucky few (Genesis 9:8-17).

## ***GrassRoots Garden***



As spring gets underway at GrassRoots Garden, we are excited to highlight the efforts of our Herb Garden specialists, the Herbies, as they revitalize our Herb Garden. A collaboration between GrassRoots and OSU Extension Lane County Master Gardeners (MG), the Herb Garden is a beloved part of GrassRoots and we are excited to have a fresh group of dedicated Herbies taking the helm of the Herb Garden project to build upon the foundations laid by the Herbies before them.

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A fresh crew of Herbies was recruited from Lane County Master Gardeners and returning GRG volunteers. The current Herbies are: Carol Salami-Goswick, a veteran MG who views herbs as food for humans and pollinators and sustainable landscape plants; Denene Roberts, a returning 2005 MG recertified in 2023 with extensive herbs knowledge gained over years of studying and using herbs; Susan Primak, an avid prior GRG Herbie and 2024 recertifying MG who bridges the gap from the past to the present; and Kimbre Wright, a newly certified MG in 2023 with fervent enthusiasm, fresh ideas, and an interest in edible flowers. The team learns by doing and shares our knowledge and interests which include the culinary purposes and environmental benefits of herbs in the landscape in addition to restoring and updating the Garden and sharing our knowledge and experience with the public. They met twice a month in 2023 to clean-up the Garden and conducted two Herb Walks in the fall of 2023.

The 2024 goals for the Herb Garden include reducing the size of the evergreen shrubs, continuing to prune lavender, replacing poorly performing plants, reduce an overabundance of plants that thrived on neglect, and expand the size of an existing bed, and add a new bed in an unused space. These activities will make room to add fresh and new varieties of existing perennials and add annual herbs and edible flowers to the existing collection of perennial herbs.

A monthly 2024 Herb Walk opened to the public on April 6 and will be conducted on the first Saturday of each month from 10:30 AM – 11:25 AM through October at GrassRoots Garden located at 1465 Coburg Road, Eugene. The walk addresses the basics of herb gardening and special interest topics such as edible flowers, propagation, irrigation, and harvesting, using, and preserving herbs, and the use of herbs as landscape plants to support pollinators and deal with landscape problem areas. If you are interested in getting involved with the Herb Garden, please get in touch with Carol by email at [Carol-SalamiGoswick@comcast.net](mailto:Carol-SalamiGoswick@comcast.net).

**Spring Hours:** Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 9am – 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](mailto:merrybradley@yahoo.com).

## Creation Care

One year ago the Creation Care team encouraged the collection of electronics for recycling. It was a successful effort that filled a pickup truck load of outdated

computers, phones, ipads, sound systems, and other electrical appliances. All items were transported to Next Step for swiping and recycling for resale or environmentally safe disposal. Now it is time to do it again! During June parishioners can drop off those old electronics that have been collecting dust in garages and attics. After June 23 the collected items will be loaded up and transferred to Next Step. This is a wonderful and convenient way to do our part in *creation care*.



## May Birthdays

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

## 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
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## Graduation Season

It is graduation season and within our St. Thomas community we have reason to celebrate this hallmark moment for two of our young people.



Harlan Rohde is known to us from his years in our Sunday School program and as a regular participant as the Christmas pageant narrator. This past summer Harlan dedicated many hours of service attending to parish cleaning projects. He will graduate from South Eugene High School and looks forward to attending the University of Washington with an interest in Real Estate Property Management and Mathematics.

Breanna Jones has been our dedicated nursery caregiver. Bree is looking forward to attending Lane Community College and has an expressed interest in technical training, specifically welding. She also is considering enlisting in the National Guard.

As these two special young people look forward to the next chapter in their lives, take a moment to encourage and celebrate them by sending them a graduation card.

## Beacon Quiz

The answer to the Beacon Quiz question from the April edition: The three phases of Creation Care actions implemented to date: Paper recycling; Cans and Bottles recycling; Electronics recycling. The answer was readily provided (once again) by avid *Beacon* reader, Lucy Barnett.

Now for the challenge for someone to respond to this question before Lucy.

What is the name and location of Rev. Ann's first destination on her sabbatical?

Committee reports and articles for the Beacon are welcome. Please submit to Cindy Jensen at [LAJotKDK@aol.com](mailto:LAJotKDK@aol.com) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.

## Yoga at St. Thomas

**MINDFUL MOVEMENT**  
with Julia Siporin, E-RYT 500  
St. Thomas Episcopal, Mondays &  
Wednesdays, 5:15 – 6:15PM - \$10



Join Julia for a sustainable and safe yoga practice for aging gracefully, addressing osteoporosis, unnecessary tension held in the body, as well as cultivating a more peaceful heart so that you can enjoy the activities you love for as long as possible. You are warmly welcomed to attend your first Alignment Yoga class for free to see if this is a good fit for you. Bring a yoga mat (or email me if you need one.)

To learn more about Julia and her other offerings, visit <https://eairthofferings.com>

Email: [julia@eairthofferings.com](mailto:julia@eairthofferings.com)  
or call/text 541-915-031

## Reflections

As editor of our St. Thomas monthly newsletter the thoughtful reflections and verbal eloquence of others is always appreciated. Sometimes those contributions come from people outside our parish family but are worth sharing. This poem was written by a member of another faith community, but the message is one we can appreciate as we consider our own reflections and prayers for renewal.

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## Prayer for Renewal

Make us new Lord,  
 as a snow piercing crocus predates spring,  
 or a fingerling salmon that swims streams  
 rushing clear.  
 Make us fresh Lord,  
 as a breeze blown soft from the sea,  
 or the sweet scent of a half-blown rose.  
 Make us warm Lord,  
 as sun's sudden rays that pluck rain clouds  
 to cotton,  
 or a blazing beach bonfire that snaps and  
 sparks starward.  
 Make us sweet Lord,  
 as laughter that ripples between friends,  
 or a baby's smile that pushes between dimples.  
 Turn us inside out Lord,  
 as a monarch that splits from its chrysalis,  
 Energize us Lord,  
 as fiery lava that leaps from Kilauea's crater,  
 or an Iditarod team that strains across ice's  
 crisp crust.  
 Surprise us Lord,  
 as sodden skies momentarily  
 reveal rainbow's arch,



or playful seals suddenly punctuate ocean calm.  
 Astonish us Lord,  
 as a fireworks finale on the Fourth of July,  
 or the first moonstep made by mankind.  
 Do the unexpected Lord,  
 as a shooting star that streaks toward earth,  
 or a fresh breeze that billows becalmed sails.  
 Redo us Lord.  
 as Michaelangelo formed David from clay,  
 mold us Lord into your new creation.  
 Renew us Lord.  
 as you breathed creation into being,  
 breathe into us a spirit fresh and new.  
 Amen.

Jean Lusk

## In Memoriam

On April 16 devoted St. Thomas parishioner Merle Spencer passed away peacefully into the Lord's heavenly embrace. Merle and his wife Jane had been regular attendees of the 8:00 am service pre-pandemic.

Our St. Thomas family will be forever enriched by their presence among us.

A service to celebrate Merle's life and inter his ashes will take place in the St. Thomas Memorial Garden on Saturday, June 15, at 10:30 a.m.



## May/June Dates of Note



**May 2 – National Day of Prayer**



**May 9 – Ascension Day**



**May 12 – Mother's Day**

**May 19 –**



**May 26 – Trinity Sunday**



**May 27 – Memorial Day**



**June 12 – Flag Day**

**June 16 – Father's Day**

**June 19 - Juneteenth**