

Love one another and the world as Christ loves us

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Volume 9 – December 2016



Foundation BREAKING NEWS –



An anonymous donor has offered to match up to \$10,000 in contributions to the Cornerstone Fund.

Please take advantage of this great opportunity!

Did you know that the Foundation has a dedicated fund to help support the Church's operations?

The Cornerstone Fund, established in 2012, is "an endowed fund with income to be transferred by the Foundation periodically as a perpetual pledge to the operating budget of the Church".

We recognize that ongoing annual pledges are not keeping up with operating expenses. The Cornerstone Fund was created to help bridge the gap, and ensure the viability of the Church now and in future generations.

This fund currently has a balance of \$95,000. This only provides about \$4,000 per year toward Church operations. **This is less than 1% of the Church's operating budget!** As you can see, the Cornerstone Fund must grow significantly in order to help close the gap in our growing budget short-fall.

Most of us are blessed with the ability to pledge to the Church. Please pledge generously, and also consider supporting the Cornerstone Fund.

Now is a particularly good time, because **up to \$10,000 of Cornerstone Fund contributions made or pledged during the remainder of 2016 will be matched by an anonymous donor.**

And speaking of contributions, consider the

huge advantages of donating appreciated assets to the church.

When you donate stocks or mutual funds that have increased in value since purchase, benefits include:

- ***The Donor pays no taxes on the appreciated asset, and neither does the Church***
- ***The Church receives the full appreciated value of the asset***
- ***The Donor can generally claim the full appreciated value of the asset as a charitable contribution for tax purposes***
- ***The Donor's taxes are simpler, not needing to account for the cost basis and capital gains***
- ***(This is not to be construed as legal or tax advice, always consult with a tax professional)***

The Church can accept transfer of stocks, mutual funds, and such, as charitable contributions.

This is an excellent way to support your parish, and especially to contribute to the Cornerstone Fund for Operations.

Please contact Andrew Moursund, John Shea, or Robin Powel for further information, or to arrange such a contribution.

(Cornerstone Fund donations can be made via the Church or Church Foundation, whichever is more convenient.)

Yours in Christ,

—D. Andrew Moursund, Church Foundation
Treasurer

From The Clergy

Worship & Special Events for the Advent and Christmas Season

Sunday, November 27th

8:00 a.m. Rite I Eucharist, 10:30 a.m. Combined Sung Eucharist with **the Great Litany**.

Sunday, December 4th

St. Nicholas Celebration & First Sunday Lunch, 11:30 a.m. in Simpson Hall. Advent treats for Sunday School children and a special visit from St. Nicholas!

Sunday, December 11th

Community Christmas Caroling. Meet at 4:00 p.m. in Simpson Hall. Caroling at the Timberhill Retirement community followed by hot chocolate and goodies.

Saturday, December 17th

Christmas cleaning and greening, 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Help to prepare the church for our Christmas worship. A soup lunch is provided.

Sunday, December 18th

Christmas Lessons and Carols. 3:00 p.m. in the Church. Hear again the miracle of the Christmas story, listen to holy anthems and sing your favorite Christmas carols at this world famous service based on the original from King's College, Cambridge.

Saturday, December 24th – Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. **Children's Christmas Pageant**. Gather with us as the children help to retell the most famous story of all.

8:30 p.m. **Special music for Christmas** presented by the Good Samaritan Choir and string ensemble.

9:00 p.m. **Christmas Candlelight Mass**. Traditional, beautiful, iconic.

Sunday, December 25th

10:30 a.m. **Sung Eucharist** with Christmas carols in the Chapel

Saturday, December 31st

New Year's Eve Labyrinth Walk; 7:00 p.m. – Midnight in Simpson Hall and our Courtyard Labyrinth.

Sunday, January 1st

8:00 a.m. **Rite I Eucharist**, 10:30 a.m. **Combined Sung Eucharist**.



Dear ones,

Advent is a time of holy waiting and spiritual preparation.

This Advent season we are gifted with another opportunity to prepare for the miracle of the Incarnation of God at Christmas and to consider the meaning of the Lord's unconditional love in our lives. As we

seek to ready the manger-cradle of our distracted hearts to welcome the birth of our Lord the busy world will, no doubt, go about its business as usual. More than that, the world will try to pull us – as it always seeks to do - into the orbit of its power, consumption and fear. The call this year, I believe, is to keep our eyes focused on Jesus. Jesus born humbly into poverty, and Jesus soon to become a refugee in a foreign land (the flight of the Holy Family from King Herod into Egypt).

Your church community stands ready to help and support you in this journey of Advent preparation: Through its sacred liturgies, bible study, prayer, service opportunities and community events. Make the most of these.

Advent is a time of holy waiting and spiritual preparation.

Simon+



Dear ones in Christ,

Somehow, it's already November and the holidays will soon be upon us. It feels like it sneaks up on me every year. There are a lot of new opportunities to connect that I would like to take some time to highlight:

Good Sam Hikers is a group of folks who love the great outdoors of all ages and abilities who

meet once-a-month. It's a time to walk, get to know others from the community, enjoy the beauty that we've been blessed with in Oregon that still takes my breath away. We meet on the second Saturday of the month at Good Samaritan at 10:00 a.m. to carpool and go on a hike. Our December hike will be on Saturday, December 10th at 10:00 a.m.

How to get involved: If you'd like to be notified of hikes, let Mo. Abigail know.

E-mail: revsrajbuckley@gmail.com or call the office to get connected.

Young(ish) Adult Group is a group of folks mostly in their twenties, thirties and forties-ish that gather once a month for fellowship, food and games.

How to get involved:

If interested, e-mail Mo. Abigail at revsrajbuckley@gmail.com or call the office to get connected.

Bible 'n' Brew is our weekly gathering on Thursday nights from 9:00 -11:00 p.m. at McMenamins Pub on 3rd Street. You don't have to be 21 to join in or someone who chooses to drink; it's one of our main gatherings for Holy Ground Episcopal Campus Ministry (HGECM), which is a ministry of Good Samaritan for students, faculty and staff at OSU and LBCC. This is a time to check in on how things are going for everyone, to build up our community, and to talk about a theological topic in a relaxed environment. All we ask is that people be respectful of others' views and to leave the dogma and drama at home. The heart of campus ministry is the community that it builds; this is a major way in which we build that community.

HGECM's Compline and Cookies, every Tuesday night at 8:00 p.m. at the Under-Ground (basement of the campus house) on the corner of Arnold Way and 26th Avenue. Compline is night prayer and the last office of the day in the monastic tradition. It's a time of candlelight, quiet, and prayer to lay down our burdens of the day and prepare ourselves for the night. Enter through the door on 26th into the basement, and go down the hallway to the left.

Common Meal is a chance for students and others from Good Samaritan to get to sit down to a meal and get to know one another. We gather the second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the campus house for food and fellowship. Enter

through the front door of the campus house. Our December Common Meal will be on December 12th at 6:30 p.m. If you're interested in attending, let Mo. Abigail know. E-mail: revsrajbuckley@gmail.com or call the office.

Corvallis Youth Collective (CYC) is an ecumenical youth group for those in middle and high school that meets on a monthly basis. The next CYC gathering will be November 20th from 5:00 - 6:30 at the United Methodist Church. We will not have a gathering in December. In January, we'll meet at Good Samaritan on the 22nd for fun and games from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

If interested, contact Mo. Abigail at revsrajbuckley@gmail.com or call the office.

Godly Play is a way for children to learn the stories of our faith through interactive storytelling and wonder. This class is designed for children ages 2 - 7ish and is offered every Sunday before the 10:30 a.m. mass beginning at 9:45 a.m. and ending at 10:20 a.m.

St. Nicholas Day Celebration, Sunday, December 4th. Mark your calendars! We'll have a visit from St. Nicholas, and will be filling and blessing Christmas stockings for the youth at Jackson Street Shelter again this year.

Christmas Eve Pageant: This year, once again, children of all ages are invited to come-as-they-are, choose a costume, and participate in the Christmas Pageant. No need to memorize lines, or attend rehearsals. The service begins at 5:00 p.m. so plan to arrive a little early if your children wish to be part of the pageant! We're also looking for a few more volunteers to help get the kids dressed up in their costumes before the service; let Mo. Abigail know if you're interested.

To all those who help keep these ministries vital, my sincere and heartfelt thanks! It is a joy and pleasure to serve you all. My door is always open.

Blessings,
Mo. Abigail

Notes From Convention

The 128th Convention of the Diocese of Oregon was held in Eugene at the Valley River Inn, beginning on Thursday evening, November 3 and ending

Saturday, November 5 at noon. Those representing Good Samaritan Church were: Clergy delegates, Fr. Simon and Mo. Abigail, and lay delegates Pat Wohlwend, John Shackelton, Robin Powel and Edie Orner. Jim Wohlwend attended Friday and Saturday and assisted the staff with the balloting, and Patricia Wickman staffed the information table for Health Care for All Oregon

Thursday evening, delegates gathered at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Eugene, for a special program and supper. St. Mary's congregation is very much involved in efforts to help the homeless — and the activities they presented Thursday evening demonstrated what they do: They served a meal that was a duplicate of the breakfast they serve twice a month for 200+ of the Eugene homeless community. It was a wonderful meal - bacon or sausage, two choices of scrambled eggs - one with veggies and one without, hash brown potatoes, homemade biscuits with butter and jam, and juice or milk. This meal is all cooked and served by congregation members. Dan Bryant, Pastor at the Eugene First Christian Church spoke with passion about their program to assist the homeless: "Our Sunday soup kitchen is where the people of means hand out the food to the people without. The Kingdom of God is where everybody sits down at the table together, where we're all equal. It's about us living it out together, getting to know one another, having conversation over the table so we can break down the barriers that exist between the more well-off and the least of these in our midst" Similar programs are duplicated by additional faith congregations in other parts of Eugene. In addition, Eugene faith groups have collaborated on a "tiny house" program whereby trailers and very small houses permanently occupy space in several church parking lots and are used for sheltering families and others who are homeless. An example of a "tiny house" was on display for those attending Thursday night's session. This program provided a wonderful demonstration of what can be done by "hand-on" outreach activities.

Friday's All Day Session contained the bulk of the business of the convention - election of persons to fill various Diocesan positions, examination of various business items including proposals for changes to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese and reports from the myriad committees and commissions of the Diocese, and ended in a ban-

quet that evening. Our Diocese is engaged in a truly amazing list of meaningful activities. The ordination of a candidate for the Diaconate was a special event on Friday, as was the Admission of St. Gabriel the Archangel in Portland as a new parish into the Diocese. Each delegate received a booklet which contains all of the written reports from these groups. See any one of us for further information.

The Keynote Address was delivered in the morning by The Rev. David Brauer-Reike, Lutheran Bishop of the Oregon ELCA, and a personal friend of our own Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Michael J. Hanley. This address was a strong message about the need to move into a changing arena as we move into the 21st Century - and the strong need to re-examine our ways of thinking and acting, as members of a Faith Community. He described the changing natures of our society as follows: 300 or 400 + years ago - Agricultural age; 100 years ago - Industrial age; 50 years ago - the Knowledge Age; Now - **The Human Economy** which is relationship/life oriented; organic-ever changing; bio-centric; values wholeness and sustainability; multi-dimensional and interdependent; and ever-evolving. He stressed that these characteristic demand the following leadership skills: Curiosity, Creativity, Initiative, Multi-disciplinary thinking and Empathy. Standing up and being counted!!

"You can't fake showing up so Wake Up. Stand Up, Show up" **Now There Is A Challenge Worth Examining!**

On Saturday, the session included the final vote on Diocesan positions & delegates to National Convention, presentation and approval of the Diocesan budget, final reports on changes to the Constitution and Canons (the final vote on these changes will be at the Convention in 2017) and recognition of various persons involved in this year's convention.

As the Convention drew to a close, a special report was given by two Clergy who represented our Diocese at the Standing Rock demonstration. Their presentation included some pictures as well as their verbal descriptions of the happenings. The Convention showed strong support for their involvement in these activities. Their message included the importance of "Showing Up! "Money is good, and needed, and important. Dollars = stored time and talent." But finding ways to Show Up strengthens

the message even more! This is a message that applies to many arenas - not just Standing Rock!

Conventions require time, energy, money, a lot of sitting - but they are rewarding and inspiring. Consider taking your turn (Showing Up) as a delegate!

—Eddie Orner and Robin Powel

See either of us if you have questions or want additional information.



Treasurers Report

Summary through October 2016

	October	October	2016	2016	Annual
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget
Income					
Pledges	31,861	32,606	278,616	286,934	339,100
Other pledge related income	719	0	15,825	18,261	18,961
All other DPA income	2,600	2,729	24,389	31,392	42,850
Non-DPA income	1,224	500	8,031	6,800	8,400
Total Income	36,405	35,835	326,861	343,387	409,311
Expenses					
Cash and Diocese Expenses	4,641	4,641	46,410	46,410	55,692
Personnel	21,530	21,352	217,610	219,009	267,643
Administration - Operations	4,593	3,700	50,072	50,744	60,230
Property	2,703	3,489	26,717	29,724	30,672
Vestry Ministries	679	1,301	3,980	9,812	11,614
Outreach from Operations	533	533	7,733	7,733	11,200
Other Expenses	39	46	274	458	550
Total Expenses	34,718	35,062	352,796	363,890	437,601
Net	1,687	773	-25,935	-20,503	-28,290

Narrative

1. Income:
 - a) Pledge income for the year is somewhat below budget.
 - b) Foundation quarterly distribution from the endowed Cornerstone Fund for Operations of \$719.
 - c) Donations from regular givers continues to be below budget.
2. Expenses:
 - a) Administration – Operations expenses for postage, Vestry Resource Guide, water, copy paper.
 - b) Expenses in the Property and Vestry Ministries categories continue to be below budget.
 - c) Total expenses for the year are \$11,094 below budget.
3. Summary: Assuming that all of us fulfill our pledges, the projected deficit for 2016 will be slightly larger than budgeted.

Please direct questions to John Shea, Treasurer, John.Shea54@gmail.com, 541 754-6832

Music Notes

Dear Parishioners,

The next two months at Good Samaritan will be busy, as Advent and Christmas represent such important seasons in our year. I find that the reverence of the season matched with the darkening of the sky helps me to better focus on our church music.

Do attend our Sundays@3 Concert this November 20th! We'll be hosting Andrei Andreev, a graduate student in piano performance at the University of Oregon. Also stay tuned for the annual tradition of Lessons and Carols on December 18, featuring our church choir in this very special pre-Christmas service.

If you're interested in participating in music at Good Samaritan, you can email me:

moursundjames@gmail.com

Music Lesson: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's most famous mass is likely his Mass in d minor – completed by his students after his death. But Mozart's Great Mass in c minor is also a titan in musical composition. The work takes almost an hour to perform, and it is believed that Mozart wrote it to rival Bach's b minor Mass. The mass lacks the obligatory "Agnus Dei" movement at the end, and the work is performed without that section. Why didn't Mozart write an Agnus Dei? My guess is simply that he got tired of writing so much...

Best,

—James Moursund, Director of Music

Vestry and Committee Reports

Your Vestry Personnel 2016

Paul VanDevelder	Senior Warden
Bill Smoker	Outreach Committee Chair, Rex Cole

Christmas Giving Opportunities – Homeless Children in Corvallis

The Church of the Good Samaritan is helping homeless children and other children in need



District.

to celebrate Christmas this year. We are giving gifts to these kids in our community, partnering with programs organized by Vina Moses, Community Outreach Inc., Jackson Street Youth Services, and the Corvallis School

Jackson Street Youth Services (JSYS) promotes the **safety, stability, and well-being** of youth facing crisis. We are providing filled Christmas stockings to young people (ages 10-17) staying at their two youth shelters. You can help by providing items to fill the stockings. Sign-up at the coffee hour or church office. Items need to be brought to the church office by **Noon of Friday, December 2nd** so that the stockings can be assembled during our St. Nicholas celebration on December 4th. Contact Mo. Abigail for more information, revsrajbuckley@gmail.com, or phone 541-757-6647.

Community Outreach, Inc (COI) is a non-profit organization that operates an emergency family housing shelter and a transitional housing program to help homeless families in Corvallis, as well as numerous other outpatient counseling and health services. We provide Christmas presents to specific children in their shelter or transitional housing program, from a list COI provides. Sign-up to provide a gift at a table in the Parish Hall during Sunday coffee hours. Gifts should be **WRAPPED** and brought to church by **Sunday, December 4th**, for delivery to Community Outreach, Inc. the next day. Questions? Contact Bob Bernhardt (541-745-5816).

The **Vina Moses Giving Tree** project collects Christmas gifts for children of families that are struggling. Parents can shop for gifts at the Vina Moses "store" and provide gifts they know their children will appreciate and enjoy. A Giving Tree will be at Good Samaritan from November 21 to December 13. To help: Pick one or more tags from the tree, buy gift(s) as suggested for the child(ren) you choose, return the gift, **UNWRAPPED**, by **Sunday, December 11**. Questions? Contact Sandy Potter (541-753-2709).

The **Corvallis Public School Foundation's Homeless Education Fund** is the recipient of our December designated offering. These funds help

homeless school children in the Corvallis School District (CSD) obtain some of the resources they need to participate and succeed in school throughout the year. For example, the funds may be used to buy backpacks or school supplies, pay for the child's expenses on a field trip, or provide a gift card to the boys and girls club. It is a Christmas gift that will keep on giving throughout the year. To support this project, your check should be made out to the Church of the Good Samaritan and placed in a designated offering envelope found in the church pews on Sundays in December. Contact Rex Cole 541-753-6713 for more information.

Good Sam shares God's Love with those in need.

God is using us to reach out and show compassion to those in need in our wider community. In recent months our efforts to respond to God's call have resulted in:

1. \$2216.26 donated to "Pennies to Prosperity". This Episcopal Relief and Development program provides microloans and financial education to support business development projects that help impoverished people to lift themselves out of poverty.
2. 203 pairs of warm socks donated to the Corvallis Homeless Shelters, the Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center, and Corvallis School District through the Socks for Soles program.
3. The delivery of Welcome Kits of household items to three newly arrived refugee families from Iraq and Moldova in the beginning of November, and three more families later in the month. The photo is of the Rusu family from



Moldova with a bin of toys for the 1 and 4 year old we included in their Welcome Kit.

Episcopal Church Supports the Standing Rock Pipeline Protest

The Dakota Access Pipeline is a 1,168 mile proposed crude oil pipeline that would pass under the Missouri River just a half mile upstream of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's reservation boundary. The Sioux Tribe has brought a lawsuit to halt construction of the pipeline out of a concern that a potential oil spill would be culturally and economically catastrophic; and the pipeline would pass through areas of cultural significance, such as sacred sites and burial grounds that federal law seeks to protect. A protest encampment at the site has ensued. A resolution of our national church's **Executive Council asks the Episcopal Church at all levels to prayerfully and financially support the planned winter encampment, which it says is the Sioux Nation's "right for peaceful assembly and protest."** A response by our Church of the Good Samaritan is not being planned, but you may be interested in the following information:

Online information regarding the Standing Rock Oil Pipeline protest:

[Episcopal Church Response to Standing Rock Oil Pipeline](http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens/2016/10/22/episcopal-church-executive-council-stands-with-standing-rock/) <http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens/2016/10/22/episcopal-church-executive-council-stands-with-standing-rock/>

[Time Magazine Oct 28, 2016 article](http://time.com/4548566/dakota-access-pipeline-standing-rock-sioux/)

<http://time.com/4548566/dakota-access-pipeline-standing-rock-sioux/>

[Resolution by Corvallis City Council Oct 2016](https://archives.corvallisoregon.gov/public/0/edoc/830188/Resolution%202016-35%20Oct%203%20Dakota%20Access%20Pipeline%20Opposition.pdf)
<https://archives.corvallisoregon.gov/public/0/edoc/830188/Resolution%202016-35%20Oct%203%20Dakota%20Access%20Pipeline%20Opposition.pdf>

[How to help Sacred Stone Camp protest of pipeline](http://sacredstonecamp.org/faq/#howtohelp)
<http://sacredstonecamp.org/faq/#howtohelp>

Keith Gelbrich

Spiritual Nurture
Committee Chair,
Cammie Bella

Adult Advent Series begins Nov. 27th

Our scholars-in-residence, Drs. Denise and Sheldon Greaves, have offered to lead a program during Advent on three Sunday mornings on November 27th, December 11th and December 18th. These sessions will meet in the Lounge after the 10:30 a.m. worship service (approximately 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.). The series is based on Raymond Brown’s *The Birth of the Messiah*, a 1977 book. You do not need to purchase a book however. It’s a rather large and somewhat technical study but Denise and Sheldon have pulled out some of the major insights and will present these along with some hand-outs. The book is now out-of-print but can still be purchased from Amazon.com if you wish to have a book to follow. Used copies are very inexpensive (e.g., \$ 0.01). Folks attending are encouraged to bring a Bible.

—Cammie Bella

Upcoming Adult Ed Programs

Sundays: sessions will be in the Lounge on Sundays from 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. approximately – after the 10:30 services:

The Birth of the Messiah Advent series is beginning the first Sunday in Advent, November 27th and will continue on December 11th and 18th (3 Sundays in all). More about this series in a separate article.

The Rise of Christianity - Craig Massie will lead a book study on Rodney Stark’s The Rise of Christianity, a book using modern sociological tools to explore the rise of Christianity in the first three and a half centuries of the common era, with implications that have relevance for us today. Class meets on Sundays on January 8th, 15th, 22nd, and February 5th and 12th.

Emergence/Creation/Purpose – Bill Gazeley will lead programs on February 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd.

Wednesdays: sessions will begin with a potluck at 6:00 p.m. and topics will begin at 6:45 p.m. in Simpson Hall.

Pope Francis’ Encyclical on Climate Change led by Dave Bella and Dr. Sheldon Greaves on January 18th and 25th.

Consciousness Inter Alia led by Al Stetz February 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd.

Lenten Groups – topics and leaders TBA March 8th, 15th, 29th, and April 5th.

Balancing Heaven and Earth: How Utilizing God-Given Nature and Instinct Can Heal the Body/Spirit Split in Christianity on January 10th, 11th, and 12th. The Rev. Peter Fritsch will be with us again to lead these discussions. Time and place TBA.

More complete descriptions of 2017 programs to come with the next newsletter and via Fr. Simon’s weekly email news.

Ruth Burns

Parish Life
Committee Chair,
Michele Justice

Harry Burrige

Buildings and Grounds
Committee Chair,
John Magee

Robert Lovelady

At Large

Ric Bergey

Finance
Committee Chair,
John Shea

Mike Propst

Worship
Committee Chair,
Simon Justice

Stephanie Wohlwend

Music
Committee Chair,
James Moursund

Beverley Beckley

Environmental Ministries
Committee Chair,
Bill Becker
Campus Ministry
Committee Chair,

Michelle Millar Linda Gelbrich
 Judy Burrige
 Stewardship
 Committee Chair,
 Pat Boyce Children and Family
 Committee Chair,
 Mo. Abigail

Happenings

EGGS – Sunny Side Up!

Can it be? After the record-breaking rains that we experienced in October, November has opened with (relatively) dry and sunny weather. Perhaps it will be sunny when you read these lines? Thanks be to God!

It's that time of year again, time to do the final shopping for Christmas gifts. So, here come the usual suggestions: Can you give some environmentally-conscious gifts to at least some of your gift recipients? Consider gift memberships in these organizations that care for God's Creation; all can be found easily on the internet.

Nearby, we have the Greenbelt Land Trust, which either purchases land or obtains conservation easements. We just took a walk through Chip Ross Park; if you can handle the muddy trails, there are some remarkable changes to be seen. If your view is more global, think about The Nature Conservancy, which engages in similar activities across the planet. They do have a number of properties in Oregon, including the stellar Cascade Head Preserve. And have you hugged a redwood tree lately? Were it not for the Save the Redwoods League there would be far fewer redwoods to hug. You might want to wait for spring to visit the National and State Redwood Parks, in Northern California. Perhaps you should consider a gift membership in one of these organizations for yourself?

Finally, for the children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews on your list, I repeat my recommendation of the collection of Ranger Rick magazines, published by the National Wildlife Federation.

Shopping hint: Check out the Friends of the

Library book sale, the first weekend in December, as a source of "reusable" holiday gifts for family and friends, near and far.

Another shopping hint: I know it is so difficult, but try to avoid overpackaged gifts; you know, items in those plastic "bubble-packs."

Take some time during this busy, perhaps hectic, time of year to savor the moment. May all of us slow down and truly appreciate the wonder of God's Creation. Consider these words from the great German mystic, Meister Eckhart:

Apprehend God in all things,

for God is in all things.

Every single creature is full of God

and is a book about God

Every creature is a word of God.

If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature-

even a caterpillar-

I would never have to prepare a sermon. So full of

God

is every creature.

—Bill Becker

View From The Village

Advent and Christmas are upon us. It seems as if this year has gone very fast. Wasn't the end of summer just yesterday?

Each of us prepares for the holiday season in our own way. One of my neighbors has doting kids who come to decorate her apartment with all kinds of lights and other decorations. Everyone who knows her look forward to seeing the festive look. Others travel to family or have family in for lunch. Our House Committee decorates the dining room beautifully. Everywhere we look something tells us there is something to celebrate. I put up a string of colored lights in my apartment and a goofy reindeer outside next to my door.

Then again, others prepare by not preparing. To them the Advent/Christmas seasons are reminders that they are missing a family member who has passed. The holiday season for them goes ever so slowly. Sometimes relief comes with the New Year,

sometimes not. There is a place in the heart that cannot be filled.

May you be filled with the spirit of love and life this holiday season.

Meanwhile, see you at the Village!

—Marian Ely, Samaritan Village

Health Care Reform Update

As I reported last month, I made the decision NOT to move forward with my resolution to the Diocese regarding membership in the HCAO Coalition for this Convention, but to provide an information table instead, and pursue the Resolution at the 2017 Convention. We did provide an information table! - I was a delegate so was in attendance at the Convention sessions, but Patricia Wickman took over the job of being present at the information table - all day Friday, from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. til noon, when the Convention adjourned. And a mighty job she did - answering questions, providing information, collecting names and contact information from folks who desired follow-up. Of interest to us, was the fact that there were three persons whose response was "I've got good insurance - why should I help pay for other folk's insurance?" This from supposed followers of Jesus who spent much of His time healing the sick. I wished that I had had a poster which said, "What would Jesus respond to that question?" But I did have the statement from the 1991 resolution from National Convention supporting a universal health care system - as well as lots of other good information. I'm glad we decided to table - I will try to have additional bits and pieces in Diocesan publications - we will be planning a couple of presentations to our own Good Samaritan members in the next months - and onward and upward to the 2017 Episcopal Convention with a Resolution supporting Universal Health Care - publicly financed and privately delivered. See Patricia or me if you have questions or comments.

—Eddie Orner

Other Activities

Annual General Meeting

The meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 29, 2017, which means that it is time to begin writing your report. Please EMAIL your report to me at officegs@goodsamchurch-episcopal.org no later than Tuesday, January 10th. Early turn ins are always appreciated!

Thank you.

—*Laura Pfeifer*

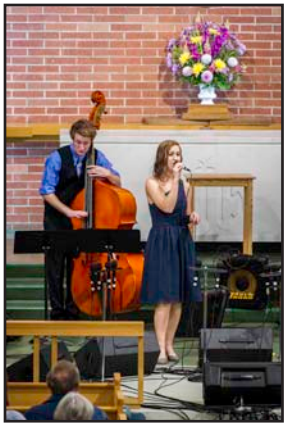
Library Listings

Advent is coming soon and the collection of books we have related to Advent and Christmas will be on display on the usual shelves to the right as you enter the library. There will be included several small booklets which contain daily readings for Advent which are not processed for lending. Please feel free to take one and if so inclined, return it after the season. I know other copies of a current publication for this year will also be available elsewhere in the church. We also have available in the library for check-out a few books suitable for family celebration of the Advent season which will be on display. But don't feel limited to these selections for your Advent reading - there are many other books in our collection which provide much food for thought as we prepare for the anniversary of new beginnings. Please spend a bit of time in our library looking over the many books available in sections such as "Church Today," "Church History," "Prayer/Meditation." "Social Issues," and others.

I'll try to include a few specific referrals in the Wednesday e-mails leading up to Christmas.

—Eddie Orner, Parish Librarian

Pictures from the Past Month



Sundays@3 Concert — Willamette Singers

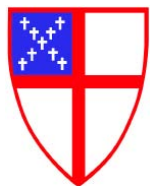


Halloween festivities
courtesy Mo Abigail



Good Samaritan
Festival of Art

Church of the Good Samaritan
333 NW 35th Street
Corvallis, Oregon 97330-4956
Episcopal



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The Bishop of Oregon:

The Right Reverend Michael J. Hanley

The Clergy of the Parish

Rector	The Rev. Simon C. Justice
Assistant Rector	The Rev. Abigail Buckley
Priest Assisting	*The Rev. Alvin P. Lafon
Priest Assisting	*The Rev. Tom Stevenson
Rector Emeritus	*The Rev. William R. McCarthy

The Officers of the Parish

Senior Warden	Paul VanDevelder
Junior Warden	Harry Burridge
Clerk of the Vestry	Andrew Moursund
Treasurer	John Shea
Assistant Treasurer	Ric Bergey

The Parish Staff

Director of Music	James Moursund
Organist	Dr. Nancy Dunn
Contemporary Music	Trudy Jones
Bell Choir Director	*Stephanie Wohlwend
Office Manager	Laura Pfeifer
Part-time Custodian	Jenna Hart
Youth Minister-Sunday School	The Rev. Abigail Buckley
Sunday School Leader	Ella Jones
Pastoral Care	*Pat Wohlwend
Licensed Lay Preacher	*Cammie Bella
Scholars in Residence	Dr. Denise Greaves
	Dr. Sheldon Greaves
Bookkeeper	Robin Powel
Webmaster	Bob Jarvis
Newsletter Editor	*David Francis

* Indicates Non-paid staff