A Message from The Rev. Doug Scott

Meanwhile

Traditionally, Interim periods are “meanwhiles.” We’re looking forward to the beginning of the next chapter, but meanwhile...

There are several goals traditionally associated with a successful Interim period in a church. First (and foremost) is obviously the task of moving a congregation successfully through the self-study and selection process so that candidates for the position of Rector can be identified, vetted, interviewed and a candidate chosen and called. But just as important are a variety of other tasks in preparing the congregation for new ministry, among them:

- identifying and addressing weaknesses in program and finance, addressing past hurts and grievances
- helping the congregation through the grief of losing their former Rector
- encouraging the lapsed or alienated to return and be restored to the fellowship of the parish
- addressing significant property issues
- strengthening the congregation’s relationship with its Bishop and the other congregations both in the community and in the Diocese
- helping the congregation identify achievable goals for its future
- encourage parish leadership to examine and restate (if necessary) its mission as a parochial fellowship
- evaluate, reorder (if necessary) and streamline Church Staffing.
- Ensure that parish records are accurate and up to date and that it’s methods of reporting are in line with expected norms.

Usually.

But ours are unusual times and, I believe, demand a different definition of successful interim ministry. We are blessed with an abundance of examples in both the Jewish and Christian sacred texts when the familiar disappeared completely and the community of faith was faced with unprecedented circumstances. Each of those times required new roles and responsibilities. Chief among those instances in the Old Testament were the Exodus and the Exile. In the New Testament the resurrection and the Ascension both demanded a re-definition of next steps.

We’re not making bricks any more, we’re gathering manna now. You can no longer go up to the Temple to pray; you must learn to sing the Lord’s song in a strange land. He is no longer what He was, He is now more. He is no longer with you in body: you must seek out His Spirit.

New world, new rules, new jobs. None we would choose, perhaps, but all of which have been thrust upon us.

I believe that the changes imposed on us in recent months demand a new understanding of what the Interim period needs to be. It is naïve to think that the nation, the church, the world will return to a pre-Covid state – there is, if you’ll forgive the comparison, no going back to Kansas from Oz.

So, we begin with the recognition of the blessings inherent in this new reality and a commitment to live into it fully. When the Children of Israel wrote to Jeremiah following their deportation to Babylon, they asked how they

(continued on page 2)
Message from Doug (continued from page 1)

were supposed to survive in this foreign place. Jeremiah wrote back, “This says the Lord. Build houses and live in them. Plant orchards and eat their produce. Have sons and daughters and give them in marriage and pray for the welfare of the place where I sent you.” In other words, keep going as best you can. Work with me to succeed (no matter where you are).

Then, we do the things that the times demand rather than waiting to do the things we used to do. I think that, among other things, this means investing time, energy and talent in establishing the best virtual worship experience we can provide. There is no doubt that our Sunday Zoom services have been not only an effective stopgap, but have also served as a new method of outreach, both to those who are unable to attend worship at Church, but also to some who are new to St. John’s entirely. Attendance at Sunday Zoom services has exceeded average attendance in the church pre-pandemic! We have regular worshippers with us who have not been to St. John’s before, even some from out-of-state as members invite extended family members to join us for worship. As awkward and unnatural as it may feel, Zoom worship can serve us as not only a means of connection, but also as a method of outreach.

Until the exercise of Lay Eucharistic Ministers is reinstated, we must establish effective ways of maintaining interchange with those members of the parish that are confined to home or facility. Carrying the sacrament to our sick and shut in following worship on Sundays was a powerful way of keeping all those we love “in the circle” of fellowship. Currently, we are relying on cards and calls to stay connected, but we need to examine more efficient and consistent methods of keeping all our members close.

There have been few times when the world and the nation need the invitation to a life of love than now, but the old ways of letting people know about our worship and ministry (newspaper announcements, display ads in telephone books, etc.) have gone the way of demijohns and petticoats. Throughout Paul’s missionary journeys, he never stood outside the city and enjoined residents to him – he went to the marketplaces, the city squares, the synagogues to share the Good News. In other words, he frequented the places where people were. We must also use the popular methods of connection and communication in creative and inviting ways to draw people closer.

While it’s comforting to look at the areas where we excel, we need to have the courage to identify the places where we need to grow and establish achievable goals in meeting ministerial deficits.

When the Children of Israel were released from their imprisonment in Exile by Cyrus of Persia, they made their way back home in stages. Once again together, the scribe Ezra gathered everyone together and read the Torah to them as a reminder of who they were and giving them a sense of community identity. One of my wishes for this Interim period is that the large number of people who have been a part of our life over the years but have drifted away be gathered again in the embrace of St. John’s fellowship. There are many who still value their long association with the parish but have found other diversions on Sundays to distract
them from the gathering of the People of God for worship, nurture and praise. I would love to see these folks restored to the active heart of the fellowship.

But in reading the people the Torah, Ezra did more than remind them of their connection to one another – he reconnected them to the foundational words of their faith. Now, more than ever, the Body of Christ needs to be richly conversant in the fundamental resources of faith. For Episcopalians, as People of the Book, that means reigniting an intimate love of our sacred texts.

We would do well to redefine our understanding of Stewardship during difficult times. While some congregations will no doubt place emphasis on innovative ways of generating income, we might also consider asking people to reexamine their understanding of the stewardship of time. As an example, if we asked members to commit one hour per week to the furtherance of our common ministry, how might we suggest that time best be used? What tasks, ministries, and programs might be enriched or expanded with an influx of ember activity? Might we dare ask for two hours?

These are, in my estimation, some of the hallmarks of a new kind of Interim period and form, for me a series of agenda items for the months ahead. You may have other insights. If so, I hope that you will share them with me and with the members of your Vestry.

Doug

Thy rod and thy staff

I’ve spoken of my dog Sam before, both in these pages and in our gatherings. He is, you may recall, the most frightened dog in the world. There is no question in my mind but that he had a difficult and traumatic puppyhood. He is particularly fearful of anything with wheels (cars, bicycles, skateboards) and will desperately drag me away from wheeled things when we are on our walks. For a long time, he wouldn’t eat if we were watching him – he would only “sneak” food when our backs were turned or eat after Jane and I had retired for the night. But perhaps the greatest source of distress for Sam is the arrival of someone unknown at our door: the letter carrier, the UPS driver, a neighbor dropping by, guests we have invited for dinner. A knock on the door occasions frantic racing around the house, raised hackles and ceaseless barking.

We finally discovered the only thing that calmed him. His leash.

Strangely, if we clipped his leash to his collar as someone approached the door, he managed to contain his fear. He wasn’t exactly happy, and there was still some throat rumbling, but he was noticeably calmer because of the confidence of his connection to us.

I have never kept sheep, but I know that a shepherd’s rod and staff in Biblical times served both as a method of defending the flock and staying connected to the sheep should they stray beyond the shepherd’s reach.

That’s why they were of comfort to the sheep.

My leash keeps me comforted during frightening times – my methods of connection to my Shepherd. Prayer, Scripture, worship, thanksgiving. These are the acts that are my connection to the one who abides with me in all places of danger.

Join Us for Sunday Worship, Tuesday Chat with Doug, and Wednesday Worship and Adult Hour via Zoom

For Sunday Morning Prayer at 10:00 am, the Meeting ID is 172-724-872.

For Tuesday Chat with Doug at 10:00 am, the meeting ID is 769-459-338.

For Wednesday Evening Prayer at 6:30 pm followed by Adult Hour, The Way of Love, the meeting ID is 769-459-338.
The Evening Prayer service will flow into Adult Hour. For those who wish to remain for Adult Hour, it is considered one meeting for Zoom, a second meeting ID is not needed for the Adult Hour.
ALL JUNE IN-PERSON EVENTS ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
WATCH FOR UPDATES IN THE WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. John’s Office Closed to Visitors
Due to the Governor Brown’s “Stay Home, Save Lives” Executive Order for COVID-19 Response effective March 23, 2020, St. John’s Office is closed to visitors until further notice. Executive Order No. 20-12 remains in effect until terminated by the Governor.

For information, please call 503-653-5880, ext. 1. We will return your call as soon as possible.

Everyone entering the Building must maintain social distancing of at least six feet between individuals at all times.

Jr. Warden Report
As I sat down this month to prepare for our regular Vestry meeting I realized that it had been weeks (months, actually!!) since I had talked with the members of our Property Team. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic I’ve been amazed at the resilience and flexibility that St. John's has demonstrated in finding ways to continue our work virtually. Worshiping on-line, conducting meetings on Zoom, maintaining the building upkeep and projects - all of these activities have continued in new and different, but effective ways!

That being said, it felt strange to be putting together a Property Team report for a third month in a row without having talked to the members of the team. So I picked up the phone. I spent a few minutes over a couple of days dialing up and talking with people who I have missed seeing on Sunday mornings. It was so nice to chat with Linda Kidd. It was great to hear John and Mollie Carmichael’s voices on the other end of the phone. Bud Lane, Phil Wallace and Larry Behm helped me to remember jobs that needed attention in the spring time - and our conversations ranged to other areas which gave us a chance to really re-connect. All in all, it was so nice to hear those voices on the other end of the line. It reminded me that the real community of St. John's continues within the "virtual reality" we're living in.

In the days and weeks ahead you too will be hearing from a St. John's Vestry member. We will be talking with our members about what we are and who we are as a church and what we are looking for in our next Rector. Please make a few quiet minutes to be present in these conversations. I encourage you to be reminded of our St. John's community. We can't wait to hear your voice!

Be well.
Ben Egbers
Jr. Warden

Distribution of the Spring (May—June) Worship Servers Schedule is delayed until we determine when in-person worship services can resume.
As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Colossians 3:12 (NRSV)

While learning the craft of photography as an understudy to Alan deLay, I began to pay attention to sunrises and sunsets. Alan taught me about the blue hour; the period before sunrise and after sunset when a blue/purple color shift takes place. The photo with Mt. Jefferson in the background was taken 19 minutes after sunset, 5:43 p.m., February 9, 2020, near Timberline Lodge during the transition to the blue hour. Note the soft, subtle shade of blue in the clouds. Alan taught me much more than how to capture a photo. He taught me about being patient: to be still, to observe, to wait and to know.

In a recent text conversation with a friend, I wrote, “I hope all is well with you.” Alicia responded, “Things are well! I am over this virus stuff though. I want things back to normal. LOL. I know it isn’t going to be like it was; at least not for a long time.”

Alicia pretty much expressed how many of us are feeling. We are ready to be done with COVID19. We want to go back to the life we had before the pandemic. We don’t want to feel isolated anymore. Unlike the time travelers in Back to the Future, we can only move forward; with new knowledge and new understanding we march into an unknown future. It is truly a period of great frustration, great inventiveness, longing for what was, and wondering what might be. With all the unknowing there is much we already know about living a Christian life. This could be a time of great renewal in the church. The New Testament has been with us for nearly 2,000 years. Though much has changed through the ages, there are some biblical truths that need attending to: “As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.” (Colossians 3:12 NRSV) is a good place to start. If we lived by these attributes, what would society, the church, the world look like? The early followers of Jesus were transformed by the teaching and life of Jesus. Can Jesus and his disciples teach us to live forward clothed with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience?

In these stressful times of isolation, I am noticing a desire for people to talk and not listen. Some say they are ‘fine’, when in fact they are filled with anxiety about the virus, tired of the social isolation, and long to feel secure about what lies ahead. The sun has set on our past, we are in the blue hour between past and future where extraordinary beauty can be revealed.

If you are interested in building up the community of God to turn tears into dancing, join the conversation where love abides, Thursday, June 4, 6:30 pm. Email deacon@stjte.org or call Deacon Denny and he will send you a Zoom invitation. Be Well, Stephen

A near full moon rises to the south of Mt Hood, bringing light to the night,
Sr. Warden Report

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am saddened to announce that Jim Reardon has resigned from the Vestry. Thank you, Jim, for your service on behalf of the congregation of St. John’s. Linda Kidd, Vestry first alternate from the election at our Annual Meeting, has accepted the opportunity to complete Jim’s term on Vestry which ends 2022.

Re-Opening St. John’s to in-person worship: Doug asked that I gather a committee together with the intent of putting together a proposal describing what in-person worship may look like as we are permitted to gather again. Joining me in this task are Lucy Gowan, Phil Lemons, Jim & Rose Reardon, and John & Molly Carmichael. A draft of our proposal was presented to the Vestry on May 21 and all agreed that it is a good beginning with much more work to be done as Governmental and Diocesan directives change. Bear in mind that this sort of document is fluid and have the ability to move and change as is needed.

Priest Search Next Steps: Our job as the leaders of St. John’s now is to figure out who we are as a church, what our goals are for the next 2, 3, or 5 years. The first step is to actively communicate with the entire congregation asking them to tell us what they want. The questionnaire committee, Bruce Fontaine, Angela Forsyth, and Jamie Berry will present a list of discovery questions to the June 18th Vestry meeting. The Vestry will contact every member of St. John’s and visit with them for a few minutes while asking the discovery questions. This is double edged win because it enables us the Vestry to get to know members better, and offers the members a platform to talk about St. John’s.

Zoom/Live Streaming Worship: Your Vestry is in full support of the Zoom/live streaming type of worship continue after the building known as St. John’s reopens to in person worship at some future date. For several of our home-bound members, the Zoom/live streaming worship is the first time they have attended worship in a long long time. Doug has received several calls from members, saying how wonderful it is to be an active part of the body of St. John’s. The live streaming worship team, Rob Foglesong, Brian Neubauer and Stephen Denny are tasked with determining and installing equipment needed to improve the quality of the streamed product to viewers and they are also tasked with enabling live streaming to the Parish Hall and the West Wing meeting room. The Vestry has set aside a portion of the Episcopal Bishop of Oregon Foundation $10,000 Covid-19 grant for this purpose.

This morning as I was putting the Sr. Warden’s report together it struck me that the past months have been kind of like “The Land of Counterpane” a poem by Robert Louis Stevenson from the book A Child’s Garden of Verses. I went to Google, found it, and now am sharing it with you.

Peace and Good Health
Mary Dettmann
Sr. Warden
The Land of Counterpane
by Robert Louis Stevenson

When I was sick and lay a-bed,
I had two pillows at my head,
And all my toys beside me lay,
To keep me happy all the day.

And sometimes for an hour or so
I watched my leaden soldiers go,
With different uniforms and drills,
Among the bed-clothes, through the hills;

And sometimes sent my ships in fleets
All up and down among the sheets;
Or brought my trees and houses out,
And planted cities all about.

I was the giant great and still
That sits upon the pillow-hill,
And sees before him, dale and plain,
The pleasant land of counterpane.
Introducing Naveeda
It has been almost a month since I have been here at St. John’s, and so far, it has been a great blessing to work with Doug and Jan in the office, and everyone I’ve been working with via emails and Zoom (thank you, Brian and Rob!) Being your Parish Administrator is ministry for me. Thank you for the warm welcome to this parish, and I hope to meet more of you either through Zoom, or in person!

Welcome Brian Neubauer, our Broadcast Manager
We are pleased to announce that Brian has accepted the position of Broadcast Manager with St. John’s. Brian has served in this capacity as a volunteer while we’ve begun to livestream our services. During the past several weeks, we have seen that livestreaming our Sunday services – a necessity in this time of COVID-19 – has also allowed many of our parishioners who cannot come to church to be with their faith community for worship. The Vestry has decided to continue livestreaming into the future and we are pleased that Brian will be working on this important ministry.

Pentecost Service, Offering and Grants
Pentecost, one of the major feast days in the Episcopal Church, will be held this Sunday May 31. There will be a special sing-a-long during the 10:00 am livestream worship service. Pentecost is also one of three Diocese of Oregon designated offerings each year. Over the years, Diocesan Council has designated the Pentecost Offering for a variety of different ministries. You are invited to contribute to the Pentecost Offering, which will be dedicated this year towards the reengaging and recovery from the current COVID-19 pandemic. St. John’s has already been blessed to receive a grant from the Episcopal Bishop of Oregon Fund for COVID-19 relief, but the need continues for many parishes and missions. If you wish to contribute to the Pentecost offering, please put “Pentecost in the memo line of your check.

Forward Day by Day Available by Mail
The Forward Day by Day for May through July arrived at St. John’s after the office closed to visitors due to COVID-19. If you would like a copy of Forward Day by Day mailed to you, please call Naveeda at 503-653-5880, ext. 1 and we’ll get a copy in the mail.

Let’s Continue to Paper the Front of St. John’s with Hearts!
To honor and support our health care workers, first responders and essential personnel, let’s paper the front of St. John’s with hearts! There will be a container under the mail slot next to the East Narthex doors so drop your hearts through the mail slot. Bring paper hearts of any size, decorated or not. It’s a great opportunity for both young and old alike to enjoy a special project! The front entrance to the West and East wings look amazing, but there’s always room for more hearts! Thanks to all who have contributed.

Milwaukie Farmers Market is Open!
The Milwaukie Farmers Market opened May 3 and is planning on being open every Sunday until October. The Farmers Market will be in the parking lot where it has been for the past several years. It will be different. There will be no music or eating food on site. Prepared food will be available and some vendors will be online. Go to the Farmers Market web site at https://milwaukiefarmersmarket.com/ for more information including COVID-19 limitations.
St. John’s Awarded SBA Paycheck Protection Loan
We were notified in May that St. John’s request for a Small Business Administration (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program loan was approved. Thanks be to God! The SBA restricts the use of these loan funds to specified purposes, at least 75% of the money must be used for payroll costs. Our application calls for the remaining 25% to be used for utility payments. The loan will cover our eligible payroll and utility costs through June 30, 2020. The SBA has issued guidance for borrowers on if, when, and how they can obtain forgiveness of all or a portion of the loan, based on whether the loan is used for the approved purposes.

Changes to the Bishop of Oregon Candidate Walkabouts and Electing Convention Dates
The schedule for the walkabouts and electing convention has changed in response to COVID-19. Walkabout week is now scheduled for August 9-14, sites to be determined. The Electing Convention is scheduled for August 29 at Church of the Good Samaritan, Corvallis. Ordination and Consecration is scheduled for January 30, 2021 at Trinity Cathedral.

ORDINARY TIME
There's nothing ordinary about it.
April 2020 Treasurer’s Report Summary
(1) Other income includes transfers from Fundraising & close out of the Scrip

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<th>INCOME</th>
<th>Year-to-Date Income As of 4/30/2020</th>
<th>Year-to-Date Budget As of 4/30/2020</th>
<th>2020 Annual Budget</th>
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<td>Pledge Income</td>
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<th>EXPENSES</th>
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<th>Budget As of 4/30/2020</th>
<th>2020 Annual Budget</th>
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<td>Rector &amp; Staff</td>
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<td>Diocese (DPA)</td>
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Balance plus Fred Meyer rewards & Amazon Smile rewards. Other income is transferred to the Operating Fund as needed. No transfers have been made through March 2020.

(2) Cover shortfall with money saved from excess income in the Operating Fund during the 2017 transition year between priests. This is not considered “Other Income” since it was originally received in the Operating Fund and reported on the 2017 Parochial Report.

Through the end of April, we received $346 more in income than we paid in expenses. On the income side, several parishioners have already paid their 2020 pledge in full or used Vanco online giving to keep their pledges current. On the expense side, costs for Rector and Staff are below budget. Naveeda, our new Parish Administrator, started in May! If you have questions about your pledge payments or other contributions, please call or email me.

Submitted by: Jan Childs, Treasurer
June 2020 Parish Calendar
Please check www.stjte.org for the scheduled events. The calendar on the website automatically updates as events are added, so it’s always current. Click on the “Parish Info” header and then choose “calendar”. Please note that all weekly meetings shown on the calendar are cancelled until Governor Brown’s “Stay Home, Save Lives” Executive Order is terminated by the Governor.

Parish Directory Updates during May 2020
Add: Address: Roberta Hanscom Change to Apt. 136
Donald Stevens Address: 1530 SW 13th Ave, #315, Portland, OR 97201
Donald’s Cell Phone: No Change
Other Phone Number: 503-208-3793
Ron Kimball Address: 12200 S.E. McLoughlin Blvd., #20304
Milwaukie, Or 97222
Phone Number: 503-970-5410

ECW News
The 2nd Annual Afternoon Tea presented by St. John’s ECW (Episcopal Church Women) has been cancelled because of the issues surrounding the coronavirus. With that being said; be prepared to plan and present an over the top Afternoon Tea for 2021!

The next scheduled ECW meeting will be September. The purpose of this and the October meeting will be to plan for the meal we will be preparing for Feed the Hungry on October 29th. Will we want to do something special in the way of favors for the guests? Think about it. Maybe we could craft something as a group on a Saturday close to the meal.

ECW Spirituality Day scheduled for May 30th at St. Luke’s Waldport has been cancelled and won’t be rescheduled this year.

Feed the Hungry Update
Greetings All,

Work with safe distancing, (masks provided) and help pack the ToGo hot meal for Feed The Hungry.
No volunteer is asked to hand out the meal, just get it ready to go.
If you feel you are able to help out on a Sunday,
Please let me know at fthmilwaukie@gmail.com if you can help.

We are still feeding the hungry in downtown Milwaukie,
Keep safe, keep well,

Connie

Save the date: Saturday, November 7, 2020
Auction, games, dinner and wine tasting!
St. John's Newsletter Distribution

The newsletter is sent by email the first of every month.

To add your name to the email list or if you don’t have email access or wish a copy mailed to you, contact the Parish Office at office@stjte.org or 503-653-5880, ext. 1.