



# The Messenger

## September 2021

Emmanuel Episcopal Church  
P. O. Box 1028  
400 Highland Avenue  
Coos Bay, OR 97420

### Rector's Reflections

Me: Hey God.

God: Hello, My Love.

Me: The world is completely out of control!

God: I know. It's such an adventure, right?

Me: No! It's like being on a runaway train! I need to feel like I am in control of my life.

God: You want to be in control?

Me: Yes!

God: You are living on a spinning wet rock of a planet that resides next to a constantly exploding fireball in the middle of an ever-expanding universe that is filled with mysteries beyond your wildest imagination.

Me: Um, okay....

God: And on this planet that you are hurtling through the great expanse in - you are co-habituating with billions of other people who have free-will and their own experiences that shape their perspectives and beliefs.

Me: Yeah...?

God: And while all this is going on your soul is residing in a physical body that is such a miracle of delicate engineering that at any given moment could produce its last heartbeat.

Me: Right...

God: What is it about your existence that you think you have any control of?

Me: Um...

God: Come on - you know the answer to this. What can you control?

Me: How kind I am to people?

God: Yep and one other thing.

Me: What's that?

God: How kind you are to yourself. Aside from that - most of everything else is a bit outside of your design.

Me: That's a bit terrifying...

God: All great adventures are!

\*\*\*\*\*



### Vestry News

Vestry meetings will be held every third Sunday from 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM and are open to the public. If you would like to attend the September Vestry meeting by ZOOM, please let the office know to receive the ZOOM link and login information.



### Labor Day Office Hours

The parish office will be closed Monday, September 6 and Tuesday, September 7 for the Labor Day holiday.

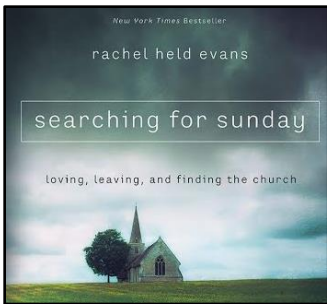
# What I Did on my Summer Vacation

By: Sr Amy Linder, OP

When I told people I was going to Puerto Rico, many envisioned warm sandy beaches, tanning by the pool, great food and an energetic Latin American night life. While I did experience all those things, this trip was more about embracing a new way of life than a destination vacation. Here is a brief look at the journey that led me to this gathering of a religious order where I publicly declared my promises to live according to their rule and accepted the holy habit of St. Dominic.



I was baptized in the Roman Catholic church as an infant. My family was moderately active in the church during my younger years and gradually faded to Easter and Christmas Catholics and then absentee Catholics as divorced and my older brother came out as gay. As a young independent adult, I tried to find my way back to the church several times as I felt something was missing in my life. I enjoyed the ritual, tradition and liturgy of mass and the reverence of the smells and bells. I got involved with the leadership team of a high school church program and was confirmed. My theory of engaging more fully with the church things I liked and that would outweigh my disagreement with the church's stance on homosexuality, divorce and women in leadership roles. Nope, didn't work for long and I entered a long period of absence from the church.



In 2017, while traveling on business, I discovered a book titled "Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving and Finding the Church" by Rachel Held Evans. The title perfectly described the internal struggle I had been experiencing for years. The book walks through the author's journey of "trying out" different churches and different denominations to find where she belonged. When she described the Episcopal church and her experience attending services, I was struck by her description of the Episcopal tradition and the Catholic influence, yet an opening and welcoming stance on women clergy, divorce and LGBTQ+.

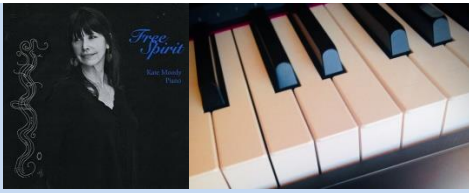
It took a few attempts, but I found my way to an Episcopal church service. I quickly realized I did not have the bulletin, yet I was able to follow along. Words began to flow out of my mouth effortlessly though I had not spoken them in years. I was amazed at how comfortable it felt. I was drawn into the familiarity of the order of service, the tradition of the liturgy and quickly noted the involvement of women serving at the altar, including the priest. The sudden realization that I could be something other than Catholic was the catalyst for the spiritual revitalization I had long been craving and I was received into the Episcopal Church in 2019.

My spiritual practice and growing involvement in the congregation led me to an insatiable appetite for study and learning. I began to explore each of the Anglican Religious Orders, their missions, values and rule of life. I kept coming back to Anglican Order of Preachers, Dominicans. I made Oblation in July 2020 and almost immediately began to feel drawn to a deeper involvement and entered postulancy in September.

This year of study and discernment has been transformative as the Dominican way of life permeates each and every aspect of my life. I find myself simplifying not only my material possessions, but also activities and relationships. Pruning the chaff, so to speak, to allow God's love to nourish new growth. And now as a Novice, I am officially Sister Amy fully practicing the Rule of Life and beginning two years of in-depth study and discernment toward Life Vows.

And yes, the pool was lovely, the sun was warm and my Puerto Rican Brothers and Sisters know how to throw a great party!





## Music Ministry

Greetings, Emmanuel! Continuing with featured composers for preludes and postludes, the composer for the month of September is Kate Moody!

September 5: Four Winds - begun on the island of Maui and completed in Pohara, New Zealand, in 2000.

September 12: Sigh - a breath of fresh air in the Colorado Rocky Mountains.

September 19: Stream - inspired by Larourell Falls in the Columbia Gorge.

September 26: Sparrow - Santa Fe, New Mexico. I was taking notes regarding a soloist's selection for an upcoming service - His Eye is on the Sparrow - and wrote "sparrow" on the nearest piece of paper, which was manuscript paper with a tune written by a Native American Flute player, Paolo Martinez, which I was fleshing out.

Music can be heard on Pandora and Spotify and downloaded from iTunes and Amazon. Physical CDs are available from the Emmanuel office.

Wishing you a happy September!

*Kate Moody*, Parish Music Director

mobile (503) 701-1951

[www.katemusic.com](http://www.katemusic.com)



## Bible 101 ZOOM Study

Beginning on Thursday, September 16, 2021 Rev. Patti will be leading Bible 101: an exploration of overarching themes/concepts throughout sacred Scripture. The week before each session a worksheet will be posted on the website for download and completion in preparation for each Thursday session by going to <https://www.episcopalcoosbay.org/bible-study> .

Topic: Bible 101 ZOOM Class

Time: Sep 16, 2021 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Thu, until Oct 28, 2021, 7 occurrence(s)

Sep 16, 2021 07:00 PM

Sep 23, 2021 07:00 PM

Sep 30, 2021 07:00 PM

Oct 7, 2021 07:00 PM

Oct 14, 2021 07:00 PM

Oct 21, 2021 07:00 PM

Oct 28, 2021 07:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83203554017?pwd=UWFBa3B4SEswSlZTYjRVMUtnSCtrUT09>

Meeting ID: 832 0355 4017

Passcode: 591354

## Junior Warden Report

Repairs to the damaged window in the upstairs classroom are getting close to done. The contractor has repaired the bad wood, covered the wall with new sheetrock and replaced damaged wall siding. Next steps involve painting and repairing the damage in the classroom downstairs. Local contractor, Lakeside Construction owner Thad Vincent, is doing the work. Check out the **BEFORE** and **AFTER** pictures below.

BEFORE



AFTER



Some good news – we have formalized a paint bid from Acacia Painting. Acacia Painting is a local company, has been doing business here for quite a while, and came with excellent references from the Coquille and Coos Bay School Districts. They gave us a start date of September 21. A FYI – it might be a good idea to park away from the church during painting hours.

The church grounds continue to look green and inviting thanks to the efforts of our lawn boys, Al and Doug. We also owe gratitude to the efforts and foresight of all our church volunteers present and past. It's all of us giving a little that creates the welcoming and inviting presence of Emmanuel Episcopal Church.

*David Laird, Junior Warden*



### **People and Pets Invited to the Blessing of the Animals at Emmanuel and Celebration of Amy's Novicing September 26, 10:00 AM**

Please join us outside in Emmanuel's breezeway for a special Blessing of the Animals service at 10:00 AM with a cake reception following after to celebrate Amy's novicing. Pet owners are invited to bring their dogs, cats, and other family pets to the outdoor service. They are requested to have dogs on a leash and to be certain that they are friendly with other animals. Small animals, such as cats and birds and rabbits, should be brought in a carrier. Photos of pets that are too difficult to transport may also be brought for a blessing. Don't forget to bring a lawn chair and masks are required.

## Coos Food Cupboard

The Coos Food Cupboard is looking for a volunteer or two for Friday's from 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM. Please contact Brian Sullivan at 541-217-0258 or Diana Schab at 541-297-2504 if you feel called to volunteer.



### **September Birthdays and Anniversaries**

Teri Whitty Birthday - September 3  
Nancylee Stewart & Cary Pugh Anniversary - September 4  
Lynn Nasburg Birthday - September 5  
Sally Jaeggli Birthday - September 6  
Joe McKeown Birthday - September 12  
Tammy Gilson Laird Birthday - September 29



**\*\*October Newsletter Submissions Deadline is Friday, September 24th\*\***