



The Messenger

November 2023

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

Rector Reflection

For 10 years of my life, I served in the United Methodist Church. While there were many things I admired about the Methodist tradition (and still do---- John Wesley rocks!), I returned to the Episcopal Church of my youth because of the grandeur of our worship and the quietude of the Prayer Book tradition. It gives me life. But on occasion, I miss my Methodist days. One such moment occurred recently. The last hymn of the day on October 8th, two days after the Hamas attack in Israel, took me right back to my Methodist days. You see, in the Methodist church it is quite common to have a hymn as the dismissal. The last hymn on the 8th was one of the standard dismissal hymns in my Methodist days. Here are the words...I am sure you know them:

*"Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our Creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me.
Let this be the moment now.
With every breath I take, let this be my solemn vow.
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me."*

I always loved that old song. And I loved the tradition that it was the last word of our worship on any given Sunday. In doing, so we made our last word an offering and re-commitment to living as Christians as we went out the door. It was to live out what Paul says in Romans 12:18 *"If it is possible, so far as it depends upon you, live peaceably with all."*

Given the overwhelming circumstances unfolding in Israel and Gaza, and really the whole middle east region, (not to mention Ukraine and other places of terror, war and violence in the world) it seems right that we should be singing this song more often. It is a reminder that to follow Christ is not an abstract commitment to a mere feeling of peace. It is hard, costly work to forgive, to reconcile and to work things out so that there is balance and equity between peoples. Such effort is, in fact, at the heart of taking up one's cross and following Jesus. The Gospel call to peacemaking (loving your neighbor as yourself) is no cake walk. Whether it be wars on a global scale or estrangement within a family or even misunderstanding between two friends, to commit to peace is the radical choice of choosing love over power. That is why we must pray for peace. We pray for transformation in ourselves as well as others so that what God wants for humanity may be welcomed in us all. It is a transformation that does not come naturally to us. We need the Holy Spirit to move in us to capture our imaginations for love's sake and take hold of the vision of a world redeemed.

Let us pray....

*O God, the Holy Spirit, come to us, and among us;
come as the wind, and cleanse us;
come as the fire, and burn;
come as the dew, and refresh;
convict, convert, and consecrate our hearts and lives to our great good and to your greater glory;
and this we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (UMH #335)*

Blessings and peace, Patti+





MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Sunday, November 5

Holiday Office Hours:

Rev. Sr. Patti Hale will be out of the office Monday, November 20 – Saturday, November 25. The parish office will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday Thursday, November 23 – Monday, November 27.

Annual Stewardship Dinner - “Amazing Grace”

Please join us for our Annual Stewardship Dinner at Emmanuel Episcopal Church on Sunday, November 5, from 4:00pm-6:30pm. Dinner is being hosted by your Vestry with special guest speaker Rev. Doug Hale, Vicar of St. Johns in Bandon. We look forward to seeing you there!

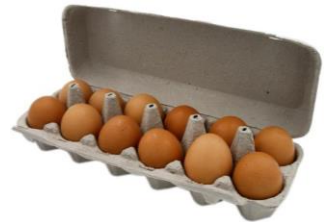
Enter his gates with thanksgiving, go into his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. Psalm 100:4-5

Coos Food Cupboard

The food cupboard was able to fund 100 Thanksgiving holiday meal baskets this year because of the generosity of Emmanuel and our community. The holiday meal baskets have all been signed up for and will be distributed on Tuesday, November 21 from 10:00am -2:00pm in the food cupboard.

For the month of November, the food cupboard would also appreciate donations of egg cartons. Heavy duty, reusable grocery bags are additionally needed for our guests who are unable to provide their own.

If you prefer to make a monetary donation to the Coos Food Cupboard, please make your check out to “Coos Food Cupboard” and mail it to P.O. Box 1028, Coos Bay, OR 97420.



Thank you for your continued and generous support of the Coos Food Cupboard!

~submitted by Brian Sullivan

Christmas Basket Outreach

Santa’s elves will be filling Christmas requests from local children this month. We need volunteers! Shoppers and adopters are needed to contribute either their labor and be reimbursed for cost (shoppers) or those who would like to donate by buying gifts for the children of their adopted family (adopters). If you would like to participate as either, please let me know or sign up in the office so we can make sure you have a family assigned to you. And if you are able, please attend our meeting on November 8 at 1:00 PM in the undercroft to meet the rest of Santa’s elves. Note that the toy closet located in the parish office is a great place to start filling your assigned basket, as it is chock full of wonderful things purchased throughout the year.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, please designate Christmas Basket Fund on checks made out to Emmanuel, in collection plate or submitted to office.

Questions? Contact Susan Foreman, 541-808-5242 or smforeman.sf@gmail.com



Coastal Families Relief Nursery - How to Get Involved

Volunteering:

“Relief Nurseries live and breathe with volunteers. We have individuals who help with organization of donations, cleaning and preparing the parent supply room, reading to kiddos, and more!”

Donation:

“We offer children's clothing, personal hygiene products, cleaning products, diapers and baby wipes, and non-perishable food items to our families through our “Care Closet”. Donations of these items are always appreciated and welcomed!”



For more information, please visit: <https://coastalfamilies.org/>

135th Annual Meeting Recap

Thank you all who attended and made the 135th Annual Meeting of the Convention happen on Saturday, October 28.

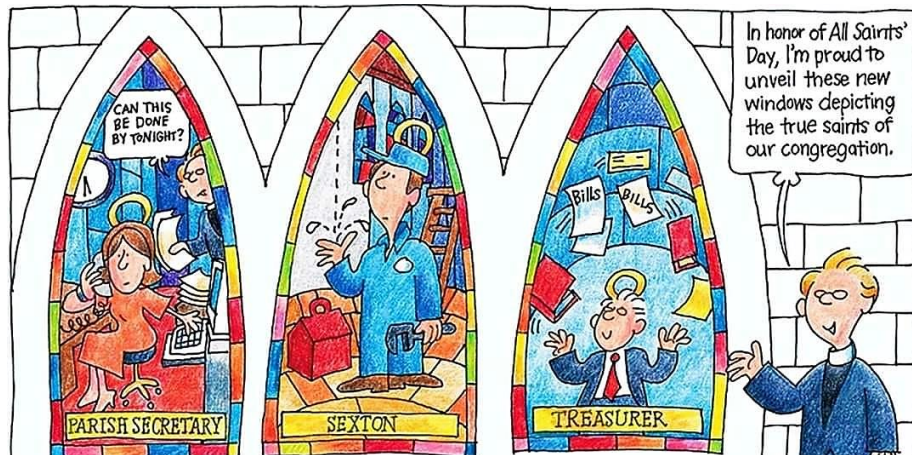
Bishop’s Address:

“Stability is available to us as the fruit of spiritual practices. Through prayer—both corporate and individual— we deepen our identity in Christ. This identity has its fullness in the knowledge that, in God, we know a peace that surpasses understanding. Because of this we trust that we are perfectly safe, that all will be well even though we do not control the how and the when.”

“This trust is at the center of our capacity to adapt. Adaptive change, for Christians, is fueled by trust and hope that the light of Christ within us has the power to transform lives: our own as well as others’. We build the capacity to adapt through our practices of forgiveness. One of the most important gifts God has given us is to have hearts that truly see and hear. What we learn because of this gift, is not only that we are loved beyond all understanding, but that we have the ability to hurt others and are therefore called to repair the damage we have done.”

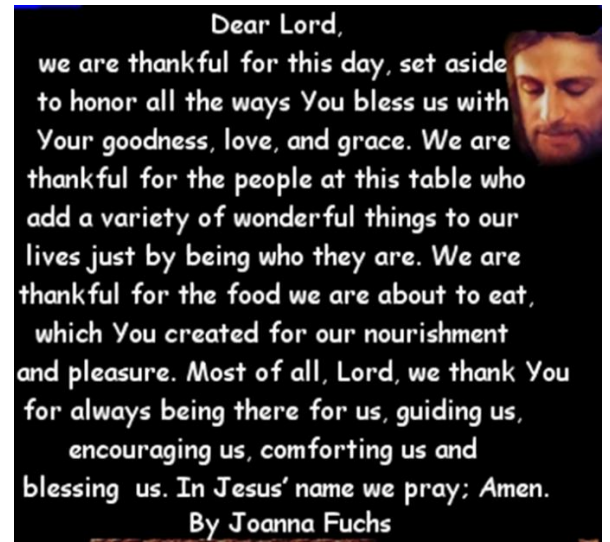
“When we do the work of confession, forgiveness, and reconciliation, we have laid the foundation to be adaptive — to understand that our transformation in Christ is always about change ... about looking up ahead to see where the light of Christ is shining ... and to follow.”

You can recap the entire meeting here: <https://ecwo.org/135th-annual-meeting-recap/>



November 1st is the feast of All Saints.

(Cartoon by the Rev. Jay Sidebotham and the Church Pension Group)



We offer thanksgiving to God “for all the blessings of this life, for our redemption, and for whatever draws us closer to God” (BCP p. 857).



Terrye Laird Birthday - November 10

Jim Peterson Birthday - November 13

Roman Trask Birthday - November 18

Bob & Ginna Richardson Anniversary - November 18

Neville Cordell Birthday - November 21

Wendy Whitaker Birthday - November 26

If you don't see your name(s) on the birthday and anniversaries list, please let Kerri in the office know so we can add you to our parish list. *Thank you!*

****December Newsletter Submissions Deadline is Wednesday, November 22nd****