

Good News from Good Samaritan



Episcopal

We live to serve Christ in joy and love, growing in ministry to each other, our community and the world.

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Volume 3 – August 2010



Fountains, Peterhof Palace



There is a lot going on at Good Samaritan during the summer vacations.



Norton Saint Philips



Saint Basil's Cathedral, Moscow



Good Samaritan Church



Lava Tube Hawaii



Stonehenge



Newport Beach



Beachy Head, Dorset, England



Victoria Lilies Amazon

Join us and participate

From The Clergy



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I hope that you are enjoying a good summer. I especially appreciate the long, warm evenings ☺.

I wanted to follow-up on some issues that Fr. Lance raised in his article in last month's newsletter, specifically the balance of

his time between the hospital and Good Samaritan Church. As you might remember our colleagues at **Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center** were very gracious in increasing Fr. Lance's work hours at the hospital last year. They really helped us out of a financial bind! Since then, Lance has become a valuable member of the chaplaincy team, he makes an important contribution to the pastoral care offered to patients and staff. It is also a great benefit to have the presence of an **Episcopal priest** at the hospital. In light of this, Lance and I have agreed that we will continue to share his time equally between the church and the hospital for the foreseeable future. Our relationship with the hospital and his contribution to the life and ministry there are important enough to merit this. Having said that, both of us agree that we would like to better utilize the gifts that he has. One of the big gaps in our ministry at Good Samaritan is someone to lead and develop our work with new parishioners and the social activities at church. I think it would be a tremendous blessing if we could use some of Lance's time and talents in these two vital areas of ministry. To that end, our vision for 2011 is to raise enough money in our annual stewardship campaign to hire a part-time person to lead our **Sunday School and children's ministry** – one of Lance's current assignments. This would enable him to devote that time to these other two vital areas of our church life. I would ask you to think and pray about these possibilities.

Another vision for the future is to develop the curriculum of **adult Christian education** at Good Samaritan. We already offer a number of great programs – our Sunday Adult Forum, Lent and

Advent Quiet Days and weekday bible studies. It would be wonderful if we could offer more of these and develop an integrated curriculum of Christian education and **spiritual formation**, which might include: Christian mysticism, Benedictine spirituality, praying the psalms with Jesus, studies in Christian saints, life and balance, study of spiritual common ground among Jews, Muslims and Christians, the evolution of our Eucharistic prayers... Again, our vision for 2011 is to raise money through our 2011 stewardship campaign to hire a person to lead and develop this ministry.

I have also been talking to Maria Dossin, our new Director of Music. She is very keen to re-start our **Sunday afternoon Concert Series**. She and her husband have many contacts in the world of the performing arts, so there will be no shortage of musicians! If you are interested in helping to start our concerts please talk to Maria. We need people to help with advertising, hospitality and administration.

So... there are some really exciting opportunities ahead of us! We are blessed to have so many people at Good Samaritan with talent and passion. All we need is the faith and courage to walk into the future the Lord has in store for us. It is a joy and privilege to be a part of this church community!

With my prayers, Simon



September 12th - Annual Parish Picnic - Come join our celebration for the beginning of the new school year! We'll have lots of great food to share so make sure to invite a friend or a neighbor. We will also be having a "Blessing of the Backpacks" and an in-gathering of school supplies that day to help children

and families who are in need. The picnic celebration begins immediately following our 10:00 a.m. services in the back parking lot, near the playground. If you have questions please e-mail Fr. Lance at RevLance@peak.com. 541-908-6516

Blessings,
—Lance

Sunday August 1

11:00 a.m. Mid-Valley Service and Picnic at Bryant Park, Albany



There will be one service at Good Samaritan on Sunday August 1, the regular 8:00 a.m. eucharist. The remaining services will be replaced with a combined mid-valley Episcopal churches eucharist at 11:00 a.m. followed by a picnic at Bryant Park, Albany. Please join us at this special event, meet old friends, make new friends and have fun, You are requested to bring potluck items to share.

Church Staff News

Maria Dossin is settling into her new role as our new Director of Music. If you haven't had an opportunity to meet her she is usually at coffee hour after church, so do make yourself known ☺. She is starting to contact choir members as well as parents of children interested in our children's choirs. If you at all feel called to sing, please call her or send her an email: mdossin@oregonmba.com

Laura Pfeifer, our new Office Manager, is also settling in well. She is in the office in the morning during the summer. Her hours will change once the schools are in session – we will post her fall hours nearer the time. Again, do feel free to drop by the office and say hello or call or email her at the church office.

I am sad to say that our bookkeeper, Robin Heino, will be leaving us mid-August. She will be moving to Yakima, WA to be nearer family. She has been with us for over two years and has done a wonderful job of keeping our financial records and administering the day to day financial business of our church. We wish her every blessing as she moves from Corvallis. I am pleased to announce

that Robin Powel has agreed to take over in this capacity. Robin is a long-time member of Good Samaritan and has had a key role in our financial office for some years now. She has many years experience in the business world – she will be a great addition to our church staff!

—Simon

Music



Dear members of Good Samaritan church,

I am very happy to be chosen as the new Music Director! I held similar positions throughout my career and truly believe that music deeply enhances worship. Native of Moscow, Russia, I graduated as a choral and symphony conductor from the most

prestigious music school in Russia – Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory.

My husband and I moved to Oregon in 2006 to join the piano faculty at the University of Oregon, where my husband is currently an associated professor of piano. In my previous positions I was a full time Director of Sacred music in Wisconsin, Texas, and Louisiana. I am looking forward to sharing my experience and expertise in church music with the Music Ministry members of Good Samaritan, especially with children and youth ensembles, adult choir, and by organizing concert series (also known as Sundays at 4:00).

I hope to get to know each of you personally pretty soon. In the meantime, do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail, or to stop by and introduce yourself on Sundays.

Presently, I live in Eugene with my two children: Victor and Sophia, and with my husband Alexandre. I hope to bring my passion for organ playing and choral singing to your congregation! If you are interested in joining the Music Ministry, please contact me at mdossin@oregonmba.com

I am looking forward to working with you!
—Maria Dossin

Vestry and Committee Reports

Your Vestry Personnel

Gail Wells Senior Warden – Finance
Brian Gifford Junior Warden – Buildings and Grounds
Bob Bernhard – Communication, Evangelism, Parish Life
Steve Blevins – St Anshelms of Canterbury
Mary Frances Campana – Technology
Richard Halter – Worship, Sunday School and Youth
Robert Moore – Stewardship
Susan Parks – Foundation
Theresa Valentine – Spiritual Nurture
Paul Vecchi – Community Outreach and Social Ministry
John Wells – Good Samaritan School
Stephanie Wohlwend – Music

Designated Offering for the Month of August

CARDV(Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence) is our designated offering for the month of August. It's mission is dedicated to helping adult and child survivors of abuse stay safe. Their services are free and confidential. They run a 24 hour hotline and you can reach them by calling 754-0110 or 1-800-927-0192. Their services are for recent or long term survivors. Your call will bring you immediate help and support. Their counselors will help you explore choices and resources and plan for escaping further violence. CARDV runs a 24 hour shelter. It's location is confidential for those at continued risk of violence. It is a safe home for adults and their children. Weekly support groups are intended to help survivors get advice and education about abuse. Peer counseling is available. The intention is to help provide for them (Moms and their children) long term safety. Additional support is available to help them sort through the legal system. Support is there when going through court and helping to set up restraining or staking orders.

CARDV believes that "Everyone Deserves Respect". No one deserves to be abused, using emotional, physical or sexual abuse or threats of abuse to control. To intimidate another person is Domestic

Violence. No one deserves to be sexually assaulted. Forcing someone to have sex without their consent is rape. Any unwanted or forced sexual attention or contact is sexual assault. Everyone deserves to be safe. Even if it is your partner, boyfriend, spouse, or acquaintance who does this - it is still Domestic Violence - It is still Rape. You are not alone. Domestic Abuse and sexual assault can happen to anyone. CARDV is here to help.

CARDV has it's annual Spaghetti dinner at Good Samaritan Church. Perhaps you have participated in their fund raiser. Please consider them in your giving during August.

—Paul Vecchi, Outreach Chairman

Thank you:

Boys & Girls Club Designated Offering

Greetings:

Thank you so much for your recent gift of \$113 to the Boys & Girls Club of Corvallis. Your generosity makes a difference in the lives of local kids and teens each day and will enable us to reach more than 15,000 Corvallis youth this year.

Our Club provides so much more than a place for kids to go after school: ...mentoring and homework help, a positive place to socialize, and basic health care needs for many of these children, including the free dental clinic. We have provided over \$1 million in services in dental treatment, membership scholarships and medications.

Because we believe that all children should have a place where they can reach their full potential, we offer programs and services at a significantly low cost. While it costs us \$1,000 a year to provide programming for each kid, annual Club membership is only \$25. We give out over \$3,000 a year in scholarships...[and] we are able to keep our costs low because of generous donors like you. Thank you for making a difference!

Sincerely,
Helen Z. Higgins, CEO
Boys & Girls Club of Corvallis

Good Samaritan Designated Offering

January — Jackson street youth shelter \$94 and PEP \$91
February — Fish/Vina Moses \$179.01
March — United Thank Offering \$245.67
May — Boys & Girls Club \$113
June — Volunteer Interfaith Caregivers \$253

Toiletries for the Homeless

Do you have some small toiletries accumulated from motel/hotel stays? The Outreach Committee has placed a box near the office to accept these small soaps/shampoos/lotions as well as toothbrushes/toothpaste/disposable razors for donation to the homeless and/or Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence. Help others by making a small donation in the collection box.

Outreach Committee (? Call Sandy Potter, 541-753-2709)

Project Action

Project Action, part of the Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center, assists those who are homeless and low-income with working toward health and self-sustainability through a variety of services.

Project Action has recently started an Advocate Program in which an individual who is homeless or low income is matched up with a volunteer from the community who is interested in supporting and assisting that individual with working toward goals. Each advocate is requested to meet with the participant every week or two to check in, help the participant research how to accomplish goals and assist the participant in acting on those goals if able and appropriate. These goals revolve around whatever the individual feels will help work toward self-sustainability and bettering his or her life. Some common goals are improving health, getting training/education, securing transitional housing, applying for SSI or other benefits.

If you would like to become an Advocate for a homeless or low-income person in Corvallis, please call Project Action for more information (541-738-7500) or send an email to:

cddc.projectaction@gmail.com

—Sandy Potter Outreach Committee

Help Needed!

Due to budget cutbacks, several people, who had formerly received help from local agencies, have asked Volunteer Interfaith Caregivers for help with light housekeeping. Can you find an hour to lend a hand helping an elderly Corvallis resident?? Please call Wendy Francis (541-757-6501) or Sandy Potter (541-753-2709) if you can help fill the gap.

—Sandy Potter Outreach Committee

Vestry Approves Sacred Spaces Committee Formation & Policy

At the June meeting, the vestry approved the formation of the Sacred Spaces Committee (SSC) along with their policy for donation of gifts of personal property and a contract form. The mission statement for SSC is *“Our goal is to create sacred spaces at the Church of the Good Samaritan which inspire meaningful, productive, nourishing and just relationships. We strive to both honor our past and respond to the ever-changing needs of our congregation”*.

Current members of the SSC are Kristi Amsberry, Cammie Bella, Beverley Beckley, Mary Christensen, Susan Leding, Tom and Gwen Stevenson. Resource people include DeeDee Larew, Facilities Manager; Mary Ellen Harper; Brian Gifford, Junior Warden; and representatives from Buildings and Grounds Committee and ECW.

The SSC will be the vehicle to accept or turn down donations of property (artwork, furniture, furnishings, etc.) by consensus of the committee. The contract form clarifies acceptance of gifts and the understanding of both the donor and the church of the conditions of the gift. Once given, the object(s) placement and duration of display will be discerned by the SSC.

The SSC Formation Statement, the Policy Statement, and the Contract Form are posted on the church’s bulletin board as well as the website. If you have any questions, please bring them to one of the committee members.

—Cammie Bella, SSC

St. Anselm of Canterbury - Episcopal Ministry in Higher Education

The Spring-Summer edition of the St. Anselm Newsletter has gone out to all members of the Church of the Good Samaritan and the larger St. Anselm family filled with news and projects. The hard work of Steven Blevans, Marian Ely and Edie Orner on the project to expand the library at St. Anselm from a local to a regional resource is underway with plans to also include the Good Samaritan parish library online within the same database with links from the Good Samaritan Web site. Interested in helping? Contact Steven Blevans-sablevans@aol.com.

Fr. Jon is in graduate school this summer at St. John's University in Minnesota working on a master's degree in Liturgics. Worship services continue, Sundays at 10:00 a.m. See the newsletter for the schedule.

Students were offered the opportunity during Dead Week to get tutoring assistance from professors Dave Bella, John Hayes, Al Stetz as a special aspect of the regular weekly Study Night. The study night program will continue in the Fall Quarter.

—Be Davison Herrera

ECW News

Update on ECW Consignment Sale/Silent Auction

Plans are progressing for ECW's annual consignment sale with, this year, the addition of several special features. Items valued at \$40.00 or more may be placed on consignment with 60 percent of the proceeds going to the donor or may be donated for the silent auction. Items valued less than \$40.00 may be donated for the silent auction or for sale.

Did you know that the price of gold is currently at or near an all time high? Now is a good time to dispose of old jewelry and even gold crowns and fillings. Patti Jagels, a Eugene antique dealer and estate sale professional, will be on hand to buy both GOLD and SILVER at a fair market price. So start sorting through those dresser drawers and jewelry boxes!

If you have a family heirloom or antique you do not want to part with but would like to know more about, Patti will be available to give you information and/or an evaluation for a small charge that will be donated to the church, \$3.00 per item.

We will have storage space in Room 11-12 if you wish to bring items before the sale date. However, please do not leave items without contacting either Dale Barnecott (541-754-1495) or Ruth Burns (541-758-3551) so that we have a proper record of consigned articles or donations and you have a receipt.

Remember, this is not a rummage sale. Please bring only nice items in good condition. Some suggestions: antiques, collectibles, artwork, furniture, china, silver, crystal, linens, jewelry, special books, decorative items. Please call Dale or Ruth if you have questions or need assistance transporting the items

The sale is scheduled for Saturday, August 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. ECW representatives will be in Simpson Hall on Friday, August 13, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to receive items and to set up for the sale and auction.

ECW will be donating all proceeds from the sale and auction to a special fund for the purchase and installation of a much needed up-to-date sound system for the Sanctuary.

Please be generous in helping us to make this a reality.

—Ruth Burns

Happenings

Labyrinth Guild

We welcome all members of our Parish and the Corvallis community to join us on August 16th from 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. in Simpson Hall for our monthly "walking meditation" on our Chartres-style labyrinth.

There is no right or wrong way to experience a labyrinth. The idea is simple: Enter: take a deep breath and begin to walk following the circuit path to the center. At the center there is a chair and pillows for rest. Then when you are ready, follow the

path back to the place where you started.

Some prefer to sit in quiet and use the wooden carved hand labyrinth as a meditative tool or just sit in the peaceful quiet and enjoy gentle music.

Please call the Parish Office, Gina or Be for further information.

—Be Davison Herrera

Building A Village Well

(Episcopal Relief and Development)

Earlier in the year we launched an ambitious fundraising drive to fund building a village well in one of the 47 developing countries where Episcopal Relief and Development is making an impact on the lives of impoverished people. Although many of you were very generous in making contributions toward the \$5,000 needed to fund a well in one of these communities, we have not quite reached our goal.

We have decided to make a final push to give parishioners an opportunity to make donations but will end our fundraiser for this project August 31. All the funds collected for the village well project will be sent to ERD at that time with instructions to apply the total amount toward funding a well. There is approximately \$3,000 in the account so, with your continued generosity, it is still possible to reach our goal of \$5,000.

Over a billion people lack access to clean drinking water and over 1.6 million people die each year as a result. Thousands of hours are lost searching for clean water. By building a well for a community – giving both a water system and basic training in sanitation – you will help secure access to one of life’s necessities, allowing families to grow strong for the future!

Checks should be made payable to Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan, with “ERD Village Well project” on the memo line. Cash contributions may be placed in the collection jar which will be available on Sunday mornings on a table in the foyer or in the office. Tax receipts are available on request.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this special project.

—Ruth Burns

Other Activities / News

Library Listings - July/August

—Because The library column didn’t make it into the previous issue, I will leave some of the books featured last month from our Spirituality Day recommendations on display a bit longer and add to them some books on spirituality donated recently by Linda Gelbrich as well as a couple of others— These new additions will be on display shortly after August 1.—Edie Orner

Seeking The Face Of God and *Silence On Fire*, both by William H. Shannon—”Everyone who has puzzled over the relationship of prayer to action (and that means most serious Christians) will want a copy of “Seeking the Face of God.” ‘Silence on Fire’ is “The inspiring sequel to ‘Seeking the Face of God’....an intelligent guide to developing one’s own prayer life, written by a skillful contemporary master....”

The Soul’s Religion - Cultivating a Profoundly Spiritual Way of Life — by Thomas Moore In this book, “Moore goes beyond the precepts of tradition and external religious practice to show how readers can find the spirit moving in everyday life. In this challenging and comprehensive revisioning of religion and spirituality, Moore provokes the reader to reimagine how a rich and personal spiritual life can be within the grasp of every seeker.”

A Tree Full Of Angels — Seeing the Holy in the Ordinary by Macrina Wiederkehr “A personalized invitation to stop, look, and listen for God in the here and now....she wants us to gather up the crumbs, the little things in our lives, and realize they have the makings of a banquet.”

Discernment — A Study in Ecstasy and Evil by Morton Kelsey....”Focusing his attention on modern man’s moral confusion, Morton Kelsey addresses himself to the need to discern good from evilThe discussion that unfolds is lively, provocative and thought-provoking. Above all, Kelsey considers the necessity for discernment, defining it as the ability to know the difference between the gifts of God and those which are not....”

....And an interesting piece of fiction —
Sum - Forty Tales from the Afterlives by David

Eagleman....”At once funny, wistful and unsettling, “Sum” is a dazzling exploration of unexpected afterlives — each presented as a vignette that offers a stunning lens through which to see ourselves in the here and now....In one afterlife, God is the size of a microbe and unaware of your existence. In another version, you work as a background character in other people’s dreams....”

....and —*What Every Sunday School Teacher Should Know - 24 Secrets That Can Help You Change Lives* by Elmer L. Towns—”A wealth of simple yet practical tools for increasing personal effectiveness as a master teacher....”

—Browse—Borrow—Bring Back—

—Edie Orner

EGGS – Eyes Wide Open

Well, our efforts to get our solar project included under the State’s “Feed-in-Tariff” (FIT) program were unsuccessful. Proposals could be submitted any time after 8:00 a.m. on the day that the program opened, and all the (very limited) funds were committed within 15 minutes. Apparently we were not the only ones who realized what a bonanza this was. The Program will re-open for new proposals in October, but the terms for that are still unclear. I suspect, given the speed with which the current funds were expended, that the terms may be less favorable. But we will try to stay abreast of things, and will keep everyone informed.

In the meantime, a reminder: Food waste from your kitchen can now be included in your “Yard Debris Cart,” or what is now termed the “Mixed Organics Cart.” That includes things as diverse as meat waste, pizza boxes, egg shells, and coffee grounds and filters. The things NOT to put in the Mixed Organics Cart are plastics of any sort (such as plastic bags), metal or foil, liquids (such as greases and oils), and animal waste.

Another reminder: Corvallis Disposal is holding a Hazardous Waste disposal event on Saturday 14 August, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Their facility is located on Walnut, right off Highway 99. This is an opportunity to get rid of old paints, stains, dirty paint thinner/turpentine, insecticides, herbicides and any of those products marked “caution,” “warning,”

“danger” and so on. Check out your garage and take this opportunity to safely rid yourself of some nasty stuff.

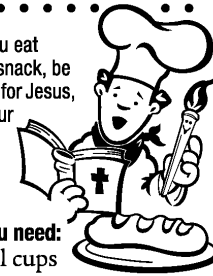
Finally, enjoy the weather and take advantage of the opportunity to savor God’s Creation. Let me recommend a book to you: *Corvallis Trails*, by Margie C. Powell. It is available at Grass Roots Bookstore, among others. Did you know that the highest point in McDonald Forest, at 2,155 feet, is McCullough Peak? Two trails (one 7 miles and one 9 miles) lead the ambitious hiker to the peak.

May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; may the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

—Bill Becker

BREAD painting

When you eat this fun snack, be thankful for Jesus, who is our Bread of Life.



What you need:

- Small cups
- Milk
- Food coloring
- Clean artist brush
- Slice of bread
- Toaster or toaster oven
- Butter (optional)

What you do:

1. Decide how many colors you want to use, and set aside one cup for each color.
2. Pour about 1/4 cup of milk into each cup.
3. Add drops of food coloring until you get a bright color.
4. Using a brush, paint a picture or write words (such as a Bible verse) on the slice of bread. Make sure not to get the bread too soaked.
5. When you’re finished painting, toast your bread. You can top it with a bit of butter. Enjoy!

Treasurers Report

Summary through June 2010

	June	June	2010	2010	Annual
	Actual	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Budget
Income					
Pledge Receipts	17417	29396	175496	177877	354249
All other DPA income	1771	2700	21219	18200	36400
Non-DPA income	878	1067	5952	6402	12800
Total Income	20066	33163	202667	202479	403449
Expenses					
Cash and Diocese Expenses	8841	5128	33994	30768	61539
Personnel	18068	21421	119971	128526	257050
Administration - Operations	2910	4417	35592	36077	62575
Property	1178	2183	7850	13098	26200
Vestry Ministries	1100	1142	6054	6852	13700
Other Expenses	22	25	190	150	300
Total Expenses	32119	34316	203651	215471	421364
Net	-12053	-1153	-984	-12992	-17915

1. Income:

- Year to date pledge receipts are just slightly below budget although receipts for June were low.
- Year to date total income is at budget.

2. Expenses:

- Year to date expenditures are \$12,000 less than budget, primarily personnel (music director and nursery) and property.
- I estimate that personnel expenses for the second half of 2010 will be near budget.
- I estimate that property expenses for all of 2010 will be near budget.

3. Bottom line:

- Our Net (Income – Expenses) for the first half of 2010 (January – June) is \$12,008 more favorable than budgeted - income at budget and expenses below budget.
- My current projection is that we will end the year with a deficit that will not be as large as budgeted.

Please direct questions to John Shea, Treasurer, John.Shea@oregonstate.edu, 541 754-6832.

—John Shea

Presiding bishop issues pastoral letter to the church

Jefferts Schori cites Canterbury's Pentecost letter, hopes for continued dialogue

June 02, 2010

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori has issued a pastoral letter to the Episcopal Church, in which she refers to the Pentecost letter from Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams and urges continued dialogue with those who disagree with recent actions "for we believe that the Spirit is always calling us to greater understanding."

In his May 28 letter, Williams acknowledged the tensions caused in some parts of the Anglican Communion by the consecration of Los Angeles Bishop Suffragan Mary Douglas Glasspool and the ongoing unauthorized incursions by Anglican leaders into other provinces. Glasspool is the Episcopal Church's second openly gay, partnered bishop.

Jefferts Schori acknowledged in her letter that "the Spirit does seem to be saying to many within the Episcopal Church that gay and lesbian persons are God's good creation, that an aspect of good creation is the possibility of lifelong, faithful partnership, and that such persons may indeed be good and healthy exemplars of gifted leadership within the Church, as baptized leaders and ordained ones. The Spirit also seems to be saying the same thing in other parts of the Anglican Communion, and among some of our Christian partners, including Lutheran churches in North America and Europe, the Old Catholic churches of Europe, and a number of others.

"That growing awareness does not deny the reality that many Anglicans and not a few Episcopalians still fervently hold traditional views about human sexuality. This Episcopal Church is a broad and inclusive enough tent to hold that variety."

The full text of the letter follows.

A pastoral letter to The Episcopal Church

Pentecost continues!

Pentecost is most fundamentally a continuing gift of the Spirit, rather than a limitation or quenching of that Spirit.

The recent statement by the Archbishop of Canterbury about the struggles within the Anglican Communion seems to equate Pentecost with a single understanding of gospel realities. Those who received the gift of the Spirit on that day all heard good news. The crowd reported, "in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power" (Acts 2:11).

The Spirit does seem to be saying to many within The Episcopal Church that gay and lesbian persons are God's good creation, that an aspect of good creation is the possibility of lifelong, faithful partnership, and that such persons may indeed be good and healthy exemplars of gifted leadership within the Church, as baptized leaders and ordained ones. The Spirit also seems to be saying the same thing in other parts of the Anglican Communion, and among some of our Christian partners, including Lutheran churches in North America and Europe, the Old Catholic churches of Europe, and a number of others.

That growing awareness does not deny the reality that many Anglicans and not a few Episcopalians still fervently hold traditional views about human sexuality. This Episcopal Church is a broad and inclusive enough tent to hold that variety. The willingness to live in tension is a hallmark of Anglicanism, beginning from its roots in Celtic Christianity pushing up against Roman Christianity in the centuries of the first millennium. That diversity in community was solidified in the Elizabethan Settlement, which really marks the beginning of Anglican Christianity as a distinct movement. Above all, it recognizes that the Spirit may be speaking to all of us, in ways that do not at present seem to cohere or agree. It also recognizes what Jesus says about the Spirit to his followers, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come" (John 16:12-13).

The Episcopal Church has spent nearly 50 years listening to and for the Spirit in these matters. While it is clear that not all within this Church have heard the same message, the current developments do represent a widening understanding. Our canons reflected this shift as long ago as 1985, when sexual

orientation was first protected from discrimination in access to the ordination process. At the request of other bodies in the Anglican Communion, this Church held an effective moratorium on the election and consecration of a partnered gay or lesbian priest as bishop from 2003 to 2010. When a diocese elected such a person in late 2009, the ensuing consent process indicated that a majority of the laity, clergy, and bishops responsible for validating that election agreed that there was no substantive bar to the consecration.

The Episcopal Church recognizes that these decisions are problematic to a number of other Anglicans. We have not made these decisions lightly. We recognize that the Spirit has not been widely heard in the same way in other parts of the Communion. In all humility, we recognize that we may be wrong, yet we have proceeded in the belief that the Spirit permeates our decisions.

We also recognize that the attempts to impose a singular understanding in such matters represent the same kind of cultural excesses practiced by many of our colonial forebears in their missionizing activity. Native Hawaiians were forced to abandon their traditional dress in favor of missionaries' standards of modesty. Native Americans were forced to abandon many of their cultural practices, even though they were fully congruent with orthodox Christianity, because the missionaries did not understand or consider those practices exemplary of the Spirit. The uniformity imposed at the Synod of Whitby did similar violence to a developing, contextual Christianity in the British Isles. In their search for uniformity, our forebears in the faith have repeatedly done much spiritual violence in the name of Christianity.

We do not seek to impose our understanding on others. We do earnestly hope for continued dialogue with those who disagree, for we believe that the Spirit is always calling us to greater understanding.

We live in great concern that colonial attitudes continue, particularly in attempts to impose a single understanding across widely varying contexts and cultures. We note that the cultural contexts in which The Episcopal Church's decisions have generated the greatest objection and reaction are also often the same contexts where women are barred from full ordained leadership, including the Church of England.

As Episcopalians, we note the troubling push

toward centralized authority exemplified in many of the statements of the recent Pentecost letter. Anglicanism as a body began in the repudiation of the control of the Bishop of Rome within an otherwise sovereign nation. Similar concerns over self-determination in the face of colonial control led the Church of Scotland to consecrate Samuel Seabury for The Episcopal Church in the nascent United States – and so began the Anglican Communion.

We have been repeatedly assured that the Anglican Covenant is not an instrument of control, yet we note that the fourth section seems to be just that to Anglicans in many parts of the Communion. So much so, that there are voices calling for stronger sanctions in that fourth section, as well as voices repudiating it as un-Anglican in nature. Unitary control does not characterize Anglicanism; rather, diversity in fellowship and communion does.

We are distressed at the apparent imposition of sanctions on some parts of the Communion. We note that these seem to be limited to those which “have formally, through their Synod or House of Bishops, adopted policies that breach any of the moratoria requested by the Instruments of Communion.” We are further distressed that such sanctions do not, apparently, apply to those parts of the Communion that continue to hold one view in public and exhibit other behaviors in private. Why is there no sanction on those who continue with a double standard? In our context bowing to anxiety by ignoring that sort of doublemindedness is usually termed a “failure of nerve.” Through many decades of wrestling with our own discomfort about recognizing the full humanity of persons who seem to differ from us, we continue to work at open and transparent communication as well as congruence between word and behavior. We openly admit our failure to achieve perfection!

The baptismal covenant prayed in this Church for more than 30 years calls us to respect the dignity of all other persons and charges us with ongoing labor toward a holy society of justice and peace. That fundamental understanding of Christian vocation underlies our hearing of the Spirit in this context and around these issues of human sexuality. That same understanding of Christian vocation encourages us to hold our convictions with sufficient humility that we can affirm the image of God in the

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 Episcopal



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person who disagrees with us. We believe that the Body of Christ is only found when such diversity is welcomed with abundant and radical hospitality.

As a Church of many nations, languages, and peoples, we will continue to seek every opportunity to increase our partnership in God’s mission for a healed creation and holy community. We look forward to the ongoing growth in partnership possible in the Listening Process, Continuing Indaba, Bible in the Life of the Church, Theological Education in the Anglican Communion, and the myriad of less formal and more local partnerships across the Communion – efforts in mission and ministry that inform and transform individuals and communities toward the vision of the Gospel – a healed world, loving God and neighbor, in the love and friendship shown us in God Incarnate.

May God’s peace dwell in your hearts,
 The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
 Presiding Bishop and Primate
 The Episcopal Church

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. Lance V. Peeler
Deacon of the Parish	The Rev. Margaret M. Bernhard*
Chaplain, Samaritan Village	The Rev. B. Shepard Crim
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	Gail Wells
Junior Warden	Brian Gifford
Clerk of the Vestry	TBA
Treasurer	John Shea
Assistant Treasurer	Robert Bernhard

The Parish Staff

Director of Music	Maria Dossin
Contemporary Music	Dawn Jones*
Office Manager	Laura Pfeifer
Facilities Manager	DeeDee Larew
Head of School	Jane Edson
Pastoral Care	Pat Wollwend*
Parish Nurse	TBA
Bookkeeper	Robin Heino
Newsletter Editor	David Francis*

* Indicates Non-paid staff