



Cross Current

April-May 2024



*For as the soil makes the sprout come up
and a garden causes seeds to grow,
so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness
and praise spring up before all nations.*

Isaiah 61:11 (NIV)

Christ Episcopal Church

35350 E. Division Road, St. Helens, OR 97051



Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed!

This is the Easter salutation, our joyous affirmation of the resurrection of Christ. But what do we believe when we believe in the resurrection? I think we are not just talking about a singular event long ago: we are making a statement about the nature of God, and therefore the nature of reality.

We are saying that we believe life overcomes death. We are saying that love endures longer than hate. We are saying that love is worth it, despite grief and loss and messiness. “I believe” isn’t a statement about intellectual assent to a proposition: it is a statement about where we put our trust, where we place the bets of our life’s actions.

Jesus on the cross was dead, his death the result of fear and power and greed. And God brought life, and love, and power of the Spirit—power that heals and brings together, not that destroys. Revealing God’s nature, which is the same today as it

was then. On it, we can put our trust. In it, we can dig our roots. From it, we can flourish.

Vicar Jaime



Special Guest Preacher for Pentecost!

Pentecost is May 19th! This is when we celebrate the birth of the church, remembering the gift of the Holy Spirit on Jesus' followers. Appropriately, on a day when we consider the church in its broader sense, our preacher this year will be The Rev. Chris

Craun, Canon to the Ordinary of our diocese.



Before accepting Bishop Akiyama's invitation to diocesan work, Chris+ was Rector of St. Michael and All Angels. She is one of the teachers at the College for Congregational Development.

Chris+ was an early advocate for what has become the Blessing Woods Nature Park and Labyrinth,

so I am especially happy to welcome her on the Sunday before its dedication.

Canon Chris Craun will be joining us for our service of Holy Eucharist and for coffee hour afterwards on May 19th. Please come and help make her welcome.

Vicar Jaime



BAC Updates



Spring has arrived, and our Blessing Woods nature park is waking up. The team from Native Plantscapes NW has filled our space with shrubs, perennials and trees. Look closely and you'll notice the twigs sprouting leaves and leafy clumps in the pollinator garden that borders the south parking lot. We plant small, so the survival rate will be higher. Joni Shaffer-Elteto, of Native Plantscapes, assures us that

by 25 May when the Bishop will dedicate the nature park and labyrinth, our native plantings will be visible and green!

Green means growth. Especially this first year, before the garden and woods are well-established, growth will require some maintenance to keep things going in the right direction. Interested to adopt a small section of our park as your personal project? Or to pitch into whatever is needed at the moment?

Outdoor Volunteers: find a mission outdoors and glorify God as you work!

May 4 we invite people interested to help outdoors to come, prepared for working. Joni and Endre Shaffer-Elteto will join us for a discussion of maintenance needs. We aim to mark on a nature park map which tasks need to be done, when. This first work-party will let us get acquainted, first hand, with our infant "sacred outdoor space". Come and find your place among God's creation. Kathryn Brittain and Nancy Tarnai will become our guides, based on direction from Joni and Endre.

BAC Updates continued

Gardening Tools

Do you have duplicate gardening tools, or items you no longer use? We will build a collection of tools available for garden volunteers to use. The shed is now available to store them. We thank Susan Wellington for the electric lawnmower she has donated for mowing the small lawn between the parish hall and the children's play area.

BAC Update

The new roster of BAC members remains the same as last year, with two changes. Jim Fowler finished his term as junior warden, and I said "yes" when asked if I would join. The other members include: Cindi Caruso (Treasurer), Carol Craig, Nate McCord (Jr Warden), Theresa Muth, Peggy Rolf (Secretary), Jaime Sanders (Vicar) and Jennifer Warner.

We appreciate the willing volunteers who keep the office running. The BAC has tweaked the line-up for several regular tasks, to provide back-up flexibility. These include Bulletin layout, printing and folding, mail pickup, check-writing, posting accounts and Cross Current layout, printing and folding. People participating include Kathryn Brittain, Flora Brown, Cindi Caruso, Carol Craig, Peggy Rolf, Janet Sukau, and Karen Van Winkle.

BAC members are in the early stages of two projects. We aim to re-locate the cables now taped to the carpet in the sanctuary to below the floor. We also hope to improve our signage on Highway 30.

Rebecca Fowler
Senior Warden

...From the Treasurer

Financial Facts—February 2024

	February Actual	2023 YTD Actual	2023 YTD Budget
Income			
Contributions	\$15,336.00	\$21,573.00	\$12,613.33
Other Income	\$10,362.00	\$13,652.00	\$2,733.33
Total Income	\$25,698.00	\$32,225.00	\$15,346.66
Expenses	\$8,854.08	\$18,090.57	\$18,054.83
Net (Deficit)	\$16,843.92	\$14,134.43	(\$2,708.17)



Thank you to everyone for keeping your pledges current .

You can always mail your pledge to the church PO Box:

Christ Church
PO BOX 478
St. Helens, OR 97051

Caregiving 101: A Guide to Family Caregiving for Older Adults

June 8 and June 15

10-11:30 am

Sooner or later most people will be caregivers. Over 53 million people were providing unpaid care in the US in 2020, according to American Association of Retired People (AARP). Many never imagined themselves in that role—it just sort of happened. For some, it was an accident or a serious illness in someone who matters, for others it was a gradual decline in such a person. For some, that person is a partner, others a parent, others a friend, or even a friend of a friend. Help is wanted (or needed) and people step up.

Caregivers help maintain the health and well-being of older adults and people with disabilities or chronic health conditions. These two classes will help you learn about the work involved in caregiving and in caring for yourself. We will meet in the Parish Hall at Christ Church. There is no fee, and you don't need to be a church member to attend. I hope to see all of you there, with any interested friends in tow!

Carol Craig

Parish Health Ministries



Men's Fellowship Breakfast



Our men's group started meeting monthly for breakfast and fellowship several months ago. Our numbers are small, but the opportunity to get better acquainted with other members is large. We meet at **Warren Country Inn at 9:00 AM on the first Saturday of each month** for roughly an hour. We have breakfast ("dutch treat") and share stories about our lives, successes and disappointments. If you're a guy, we hope you'll join us at 9:00 AM on April 6. If you have any questions, please give me a call at 971-757-0558.

Jim Fowler

Puzzles, Puzzles, Puzzles!



Would you like to exchange your used puzzles with others? Look at the "kid table" in the parish hall. There will be puzzles for you to take. If you have any puzzles that you have finished, you are welcome to leave them for others to take.

Patrichia Altimus





Columbia County Habitat for Humanity Updates

Here at Habitat we're wrapping up the last of our funding for last year's matched savings plan for home repairs and home purchase. The Oregon IDA is a terrific program that grants state funding for low income individuals seeking to purchase their first home or for expensive home repairs. You can learn more here:

<https://habitatcolumbiacounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/arial-brochure.pdf>

Next month we should be receiving word about funding for 2024. If anyone in your congregation might be interested in learning more about possibly participating, please reach out to our office either by calling 971-203-0020 or email: info@habitatcolumbiacounty.org

Angela Carlson

Administrative Assistant

Columbia County Habitat for Humanity



We were pleased to have the opportunity to meet with Oregon lawmakers and staff in Salem at the beginning of the new legislative session February 13th to share personal stories and urge support for the Oregon IDA program. We met with Senator Suzanne Weber (pictured) and Brian Stout and with luck, the IDA program will continue to be funded at its current rate and be used to bless more families receive a “hand up” into affordable housing solutions.

Support for Nature Park Grows



The National Wildlife Federation has certified Blessing Woods Nature Park as an official wildlife habitat through its Garden for Wildlife program and the habitat has been co-certified with NWF's state affiliate, the Association of Northwest Steelheaders.

NWF celebrates this effort to create a space that supports birds, butterflies, bees, frogs and other local wildlife. Every Certified Wildlife Habitat garden provides natural sources of food, water, cover and places to raise young and is maintained in a sustainable way that incorporates native plants, conserves water and doesn't rely on pesticides.

The Garden for Wildlife movement has recognized over 227,000 Certified Wildlife Habitat gardens across the U.S., encompassing more than 2.5 million acres. Backyards, urban gardens, school grounds, businesses, places of worship, campuses, parks, farms, zoos and community landscapes can be recognized as wildlife habitats through the program.

Church Vicar Jaime Sanders said there are two perspectives to the park. "One from the human users and the other from the animal, bird and insect users of the park. The idea is we don't have to separate human use areas from natural areas. They can co-exist."

Blessing Woods, which is open for public use during daylight hours, is located on the church's two acres in a rural setting. It features forested areas, walking trails, a labyrinth and children's play area. It is home to deer, quail, birds, squirrels and other creatures. In the past few months, thousands of native plants have been planted on the property.

Every Certified Wildlife Habitat garden is part of the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge, a national effort to create a million gardens that provide habitat for declining pollinator insects such as butterflies and bees.

For more information visit nwf.org/garden.



Blessing Woods Nature Park DEDICATION

You are invited to the
Blessing Woods Nature Park Dedication
Bishop Diana Akiyama will be here to bless the nature park and
labyrinth. Refreshments will follow the event.

May 25 at 1:00 PM

Christ Episcopal Church
35350 E Division Rd, St. Helens

***Prayer for a Labyrinth Walk*¹**



O God of many paths,
I stand before this labyrinth today,
metaphor of my journey to you.
In the Western world I have been taught
that “the shortest distance between two points
is a straight line,”
and being an impatient person,
I am uncomfortable with waiting.
I have often modeled my journey to you
on the straight line.
But you, God of infinite patience,
have shown me that there is another path,
a curved path.
On this path, my anticipation is heightened
as I approach the center,
only to be led out again to the periphery.
But this path more closely resembles life itself.
On this path, if I just put one foot in front of the other,
it may seem at times as if I am not approaching my goal,
while, in fact, I am drawing closer all the time.
But you are a God of surprises and mystery,
and I don’t control the path.
The labyrinth is a symbol of my surrender to mystery,
trusting, not knowing for certain,
that path which curves in and out again ultimately leads to
The Center which is You.

¹ *Jean Sonnenberg, Bon Secour Labyrinth*

Did You Know We Are Offering Venue Rental Space?

The BAC has voted to allow and encourage the use of our building and grounds for event venue rental. If you know of a non-profit organization interested in one-time or ongoing space rental, please let Nancy Tarnai know. We have had some inquiries but nothing has solidified yet, so we could use your help talking this up. The Parish Hall is the perfect place for meetings, classes, art shows. And the outdoor space is available for family or church events. We hope to also begin offering our space for city churches to have peaceful, rural retreats



Diocesan Renewal Gathering

The Diocesan Renewal Gathering is Saturday, June 1 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bishop Rob Wright from the Diocese of Atlanta will be the guest speaker. Bishop Wright's podcast, [For People](#), has listeners in 100 countries and over 4,000 cities. Wright has been named among the 100 most influential Georgians by Georgia Trend magazine and among the 500 most powerful leaders in Atlanta by Atlanta magazine.

The meeting is at St. Paul Episcopal Church, 1444 Liberty Street SE, Salem.

Christ Church members may wish to carpool for this occasion and may discuss arrangements at a church coffee hour prior to the event.

Cleanup Day Set for May 4th

We will need help prepping the nature park for the big dedication ceremony. Saturday, May 4 at 10:30 a.m. is the date for getting our two acres looking their best in advance of the May 25 event. In addition to weeding and culling blackberries and holly, there will be driveway cleanup and other jobs. Please bring work gloves and join the "party."



Prayer Requests

Send requests to Kathryn Brittain by email at kathjbritt@gmail.com or phone 503-543-6870 or cell phone 503-438-5908.

Vicar Jaime's Office Hours

Thursday 1—5 pm
Other days by Appointment

FYI



Our Website is: www.christchurchsthelens.org

Email: christchurchsthelens@gmail.com

Phone: (503) 397-1033

Search Facebook: Christ Episcopal Church

To receive the Cross Current via email rather than printed or "snail mail" email christchurchsthelens@gmail.com to be put on the list.

Calendar

Evening Prayer via Zoom—Thursdays at 5 pm

Sunday Service - Sundays 10 am in person and on zoom.
see the email invitation with the zoom link.



Men's Fellowship Breakfast—First Saturday of the month
at Warren Country Inn 9 am.

Cleanup Day—May 4th at 10:30 am. Come help clean the grounds
before the Blessing Woods Dedication.

Pentecost Service—May 19—The Rev. Chris Craun, Canon to the Ord-
inary of our diocese is guest preacher.

Dedication of Blessing Woods Nature Park & Labyrinth with Bishop
Diana Akiyama. May 25, 2024, 1:00 pm

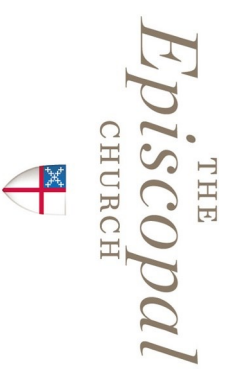
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June 8 and June 15, 10-11:30 am in the Parish Hall.





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welcomes you