



Cross Current

June—July 2022



O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Collect for stewardship of creation pg 259

Christ Episcopal Church

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

(503) 397-1033

find us on



May 28, 2022

Dear Friends,

I write this as I prepare to leave for a week's vacation at a retreat center in the mountains of Wyoming. The gospels tell us that Jesus would withdraw from time to time and go out to the mountains to pray. Our spirits need times of natural beauty and solitude, and this article would probably be better if it were being written at the end of my vacation rather than at the beginning.

Part of my retreat is going to be fasting from news. Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the suffering of people there; grocery shoppers being massacred in Buffalo; children being massacred in their classroom . . . my spirit is heavy and fretted with anger and grief. The mountains can absorb anger and grief; they are big enough and old enough to take it and return the sound of wind in the trees.

If you have an opportunity this summer to withdraw from the news and the fretting voices, I encourage you to take it. It need not be for a whole week at a time: a day at the ocean, watching the waves erase footprints in the sand; a walk in the woods; even an hour at a dog park, with your phone turned off—all of these can bring refreshment to a battered and weary spirit. Buffers against stress and trauma. Breathe, hydrate, pray, and trust in God.

Blessings,

Vicar Jaime



United Thank Offering Grants



The United Thank Offering blue boxes are for recognizing our blessings and giving thanks for them on a regular basis by putting coins in the box. And then turning them in at the ingathering that we have twice a year. Many Episcopalians around the nation do the same.

They are sent to the UTO board. The following is an email article that I received April 26 on United Thank Offering grants for 2022. These are the monies that we collected in 2021. This is what happens to those pennies and nickels and dollar bills you put in the United Thank Offering blue box.

Kathryn Brittain



More than \$1 million in United Thank Offering grants – designated for 22 projects related to creation within The Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion – was approved by the church’s Executive Council during its April meeting.

The funds came from the United Thank Offerings 2021 Ingathering, where monies collected in the UTO “blue boxes” at Episcopal Churches throughout the year are gathered as thank offerings.

This year's focus for grant application was “Care of Creation: Turning love into action by caring for God’s creation to protect the most vulnerable – who will bear the largest burden of population and climate change – through justice, advocacy, environmental reparations or the development of fundamental materials”.

The UTO Board received about \$1.8 million in requests from 42 applications. It was able to fund eight projects within The Episcopal Church and four projects from dioceses that receive block Grants Convention; eight projects within the Anglican Communion; and two historical grants.

For a list of the grants you can find them at:

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/publicaffairs/united-thank-offering-over-1m-awarded-in-creation-care-grants/>

...From the Treasurer

Financial Facts—April 2022

	April Actual	2022 YTD Actual	2022 YTD Budget
Income			
Contributions	\$7,235.00	\$45,806.00	\$27,290.00
Other Income	\$40.25	\$887.24	\$500.00
Total Income	\$7,275.25	\$46,693.24	\$27,790.00
Expenses	\$9,812.58	\$31,708.78	\$30,980.00
Net (Deficit)	(\$2,537.33)	\$14,984.46	(\$3,190.00)



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

April 19 BAC Meeting Highlights

- Kathryn Brittain is helping Deacon SuEllen with the one-day-a-week lunch for the Habitat for Humanity crew in St. Helens.
- Permaculture Project—the job has been advertised with the Diocese and our website. We are waiting to hear from a couple of universities. PCC will also be contacted.
- Locking up after church—some outside doors were not closed properly. They must be pushed or pulled closed carefully. Carol volunteered to make an announcement in in church and Peggy will make signs for inside and outside the doors. Jim will investigate the cost of rekeying or installing a keypad.
- A new computer was purchased for airing our church services on Zoom. We had been using Vicar Jaime's personal computer previously.



Congregants spreading wildflower seeds after church on May 1, 2022. With all the rain we have been having, let's hope the seeds sprout.

Columbia County Habitat for Humanity Updates from the Spring Newsletter

Kris and Jaycob moved into their home. This home was purchased back from a previous Habitat homeowner. It was the perfect fit since it was a one-level home.

The St. Helens house that is currently under construction is coming along. They thanked everyone for their contributions to the project, including Christ Church for providing lunch one day a week.

A new partner family was selected for Habitat's first home in Vernonia

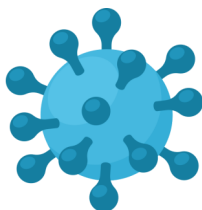
In February, Habitat for Humanity purchased property in Scappoose from Community Action Team. This project will provide housing for ten families! There are considerable infrastructure improvements that need to be tackled before applications will be taken.

If you want more information, contact Angela at info@habitatcolumbiacounty.org



Parish Health Ministries

Living With the Undead



Some of you may be wondering why we still don't share the communion cup—after all, alcohol kills germs, right?

Well, yes and no. “Germs” are all of the things that cause illness in humans, including bacteria, fungi, viruses and a couple of oddball organisms that defy description.

Bacteria and fungi are living beings—they breathe, eat, grow, move, reproduce and have senses. Viruses, however, are a different story. They are a packet of DNA or RNA surrounded by a fatty coat, or a protein coat. That's it. Their coats have molecules that allow them to attach to human cells and take over the cell to make more viruses, destroying our human cells in the process. Viruses do not eat, breathe, grow, move or have senses—they just hijack our cells and reproduce.

That can make them hard to “kill”, since how do you kill something that isn't alive in the first place?

Viruses can be deactivated, which involves breaking down their fatty (lipid) or protein shell. The virus that causes covid has a lipid shell. As with all lipid shell viruses, soap will tear apart the shell—so washing your hands for 20 seconds can deactivate it. Therefore handwashing is an excellent way to reduce your chances for Covid infection.

Unfortunately, although alcohol can deactivate the Covid virus, it requires concentrations many times higher than in communion wine, and at least several minutes of exposure. Studies of infection and sharing a common cup have been done with bacteria, not viruses. So at this point in time, it is unknown, but possible, for the Covid virus to be passed from one person to another during communion. When infection rates are high in our community, the possibility increases. When we have low rates, that will be a time to begin sharing the cup once again for those who are comfortable with it.

Carol Craig

Parish Health Nurse

Rogation Days

Traditionally, these are the three days before Ascension Day on which the litany is sung (or recited) in procession as an act of intercession. They originated in Vienne, France, in the fifth century when Bishop Mamertus introduced days of fasting and prayer to ward off a threatened disaster. In England they were associated with the blessing of the fields at planting. The vicar “beat the bounds” of the parish, processing around the fields reciting psalms and the litany. In the United States they have been associated with rural life and with agriculture and fishing. The propers in the BCP (pp. 207-208, 258-259, 930) have widened their scope to include commerce and industry and the stewardship of creation. The BCP also permits their celebration at other times to accommodate different regional growing seasons. The BOS contains material for a Rogation procession, including petitions to be added to the Great Litany and the prayers of the people. The term is from the Latin rogatio, “asking.”

Excerpt from <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/glossary/rogation-days/>

On Sunday, May 22, the congregation walked around the property stopping to say prayers of thanksgiving.





Throwback to 2001



Do you know who these guys are? Yes, time has flown since the blessing of our new kitchen and parish hall in the spring of 2001. L-R Terry King, Bishop Robert Ladehoff, Bob Schmor and Father Karl Reich.



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.**



Vicar Jaime's Office Hours

Thursday 1—5 pm
Friday by Appointment

Prayer Requests

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

FYI

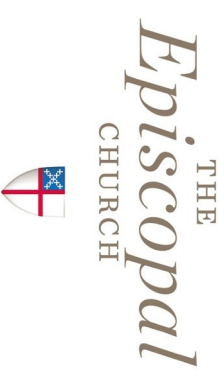


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welcomes you