



# Cross Current

May 2025

## First Art Camp is on the Calendar!



Christ Church will host the Gotta Have HeART Camp the week of July 28-Aug. 1. If you want to help with the planning, let Mother Esme know. The committee meets every other Wednesday at noon in the Parish Hall. We are planning a 5-day camp for children 6-12, who will attend from 9 am-3 pm. We'll

have volunteer artists teaching various sessions. This is a secular, fee-based camp but we will have scholarships available. This effort is a church-wide endeavor and we are excited to have young people using our facilities.

As soon as the registration form is ready, we'll make it available on the website. We'll need everyone's help to post flyers and spread the word.

Talk to people you know who may be able to assist at camp by referring children and parents to our camp. Think about who you know who might work as artists, counselors (ages 16-18), volunteer counselors-in-training (ages 14-16) and what you can do to assist in the launch of our art camp.

*Nancy Tarnai*

## Ministry Spotlight

Did you ever wonder where those cards come from? Judy Keck has been sending them out to the members of Christ Church since 2013!

Judy took over this ministry from Mo Brown who took it over from someone else back in the day. She enjoys reaching out and says that it makes a feeling of community here at Christ Church. She sends out birthday and anniversary cards as well as "Get-Well", sympathy, or other needs cards when she hears of those events in people's lives. Judy maintains a list of birthdays and anniversaries and the hardest part of the job is looking at the calendar at the right time. She appreciates the donations when some give her a bunch of cards to use in this ministry.

Thank you Judy for all you do at Christ Church!

*Karen Van Winkle*



## Spring / Summer Weekly Groups

### Signups

Please sign up for your preference for day for Spring/ Summer weekly groups at the table in the narthex as soon as you can. The choices are:

10:00 am Morning Prayer and Bible Study for Grownups  
(no Wednesday)  
and / or

6:30 pm Evening Prayer with Benedict and Compline

## Bishop to Visit Christ Church



Bishop Diana Akiyama will be visiting us on Sunday April 27. Please stay for coffee hour after the service so you can meet and talk with Bishop Diana.

## Notes from the Vicar

Dear friends,



As if heralding the signs of Spring all around us and not wanting to be left behind, new signs have arrived at Blessing Woods! The signs are impressive and allow no question that there is something to see and enjoy at Christ Episcopal Church. A place to walk through and admire new growth, a place to sit to think and to contemplate, a place to escape deepening worries in the world, a place to find peace. There is no doubt that all these are true blessings to weary souls. We pray for all who come to find respite there.



Perhaps, now that the design, planting is complete and care is well underway, the blessing of Blessing Woods can be extended to Christ Church, itself. Maybe, one day someone could sit in Blessing Woods and, because it is Easter, they view a flowered cross standing amid the still-youthful and hardy trees growing near it. Maybe, one day there might be a message box near the cross and a way to write prayers to put in the box so that every Sunday, a stranger's prayer might be heard. Maybe, one day there might be a little message board by the cross, letting people know that food packets are available on one day of the week, or that a soup supper is served with lots of smiles and laughter on Friday nights.

Maybe the blessing of Christ Church will reach into lonely hearts that find their way through Blessing Woods, into the parish hall and the church itself. And maybe we will all be humbled by how God works when we listen to God's direction with divinely led hearts.

Blessing Woods is a place to walk, explore and find peace, but its path doesn't end there. May the blessing of Easter fill your hearts and lead you always forward on the path to the Flowered Cross.

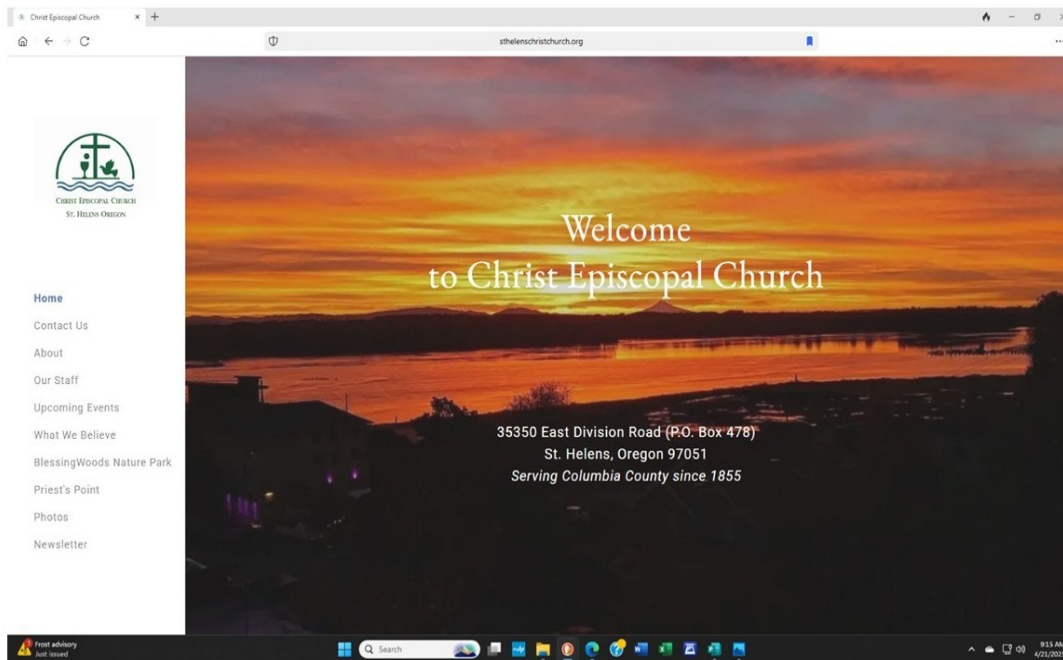
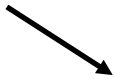
On the path together,

Mother Esme+



## ***Check-Out all the Information on our Website: StHelensChristChurch.org***

Click on one of the categories for more information.



This is a view of the "Home Screen". Scroll down and you will find more information or click on the list to the left to get where you want to go.

Have you looked at the church website recently? It has a lot of information that you can easily find. For the most up-to-date church calendar, click on the "Upcoming Events" tab on the left side. You can access past newsletters, blogs and photos as well. Check it out!



In addition to wrapping up the home in Vernonia this past month, we have also been busy building a new ramp in Rainier! When Linda first moved to the area, she was simply glad to find a decent home she could afford. Unfortunately however, it became clear over time that she and her disabled daughter were not managing the makeshift stairs at the entry point in order to access her doorway. She wasn't able to afford to pay for a new ramp to be built in its place but altered CCHFH of her concerns. We were able to assess her current situation and work on a plan. Our wonderful volunteer builders, Dick and Mike B. then helped make this entryway easier for her to navigate, especially when carrying in groceries! Linda was so relieved to have this safer access in place for both herself and her daughter and they look forward to using this new ramp for many years!

*Angela Carlson  
Family Services/Admin  
Columbia County Habitat for Humanity*





## ***From the Senior Warden***

Have you noticed something new has sprouted in our Blessing Woods? In April, we installed small signs in various spots to inform and delight as we meander or pause in our sacred outdoor space. There are 6 altogether, dark background with amber text. Can you find them? We're grateful for the donations which funded these signs.



You'll also notice the new fence which screens Blessing Woods from our neighbor to the south on Division Road. This proved to be a friendly project with our neighbor, thanks in part to the alert customer service of our contractor. The visual shield enhances the calm of our Woods, and maybe the dogs will bark less!

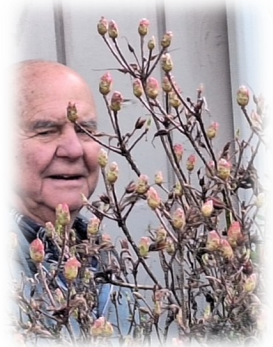


We are preparing to welcome the Bishop on Sunday 27 April!

*Rebecca Fowler*  
Senior Warden

## ***Thank You Yard Cleanup Volunteers!***

Thank you to all the hard-working volunteers who clipped, trimmed, raked, mulched & made the church grounds look beautiful on Saturday March 29 getting ready for spring!



## Help Wanted—Coffee Hour Hosts

Do you enjoy having a cup of coffee and maybe a small treat and visiting with your fellow parishioners after the Sunday Service? Most of us do enjoy this fellowship. Now is your chance to help out with the refreshments!

Please sign up to host a coffee hour. It can be as simple as a plate of cookies or more elaborate like a small relish tray or cheese and meat platter...it is up to you!

The set-up is easy. You come early, get the coffee pot going and set up the food table. Afterwards, you make sure the kitchen is cleaned up and run the dishwasher. If you are concerned about how to do this, just ask June Dodson or Barbara Morris for how to do this.



## Calendar



For the most up-to-date calendar of events, please see the website: [www.sthelenschristchurch.org](http://www.sthelenschristchurch.org)

**Sunday Services** - Eucharist—Sundays 10 am

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

**Prayer Shawl Group**—2nd Thursday of the month at 1:30 pm

**Bishop Diana Akiyama visit to Christ Church**—Sunday April 27, stay for coffee hour and meet Bishop Diana

**Diocesan Renewal Gathering**—Saturday May 3 at St. Paul's, Salem.

**Gotta Have Heart Art Camp Planning Meetings** — 4/30, 5/14, 5/28 Noon—2 pm in the parish hall

**Pentecost Sunday**—6/8

## Prayer Requests

Send requests to Kathryn Brittain by email at [kathjbritt@gmail.com](mailto:kathjbritt@gmail.com) or phone 503-438-5908.

## Christ Church Contact Information

Our Website is: [www.sthelenschristchurch.org](http://www.sthelenschristchurch.org)

Email: [office@StHelensChristChurch.org](mailto:office@StHelensChristChurch.org)

Phone: (503) 397-1033

Search Facebook: Christ Episcopal Church



Mother Esme's email:

[MotherEsme@StHelensChristChurch.org](mailto:MotherEsme@StHelensChristChurch.org)

To receive the "Cross Current" newsletter via email rather than printed or "snail mail" email us to be put on the list.

## Church Buildings for Rent

Do you know of any nonprofits seeking space for meetings or events? We are making the Parish Hall and other spaces (including outdoors) available for rent for reasonable prices. Please contact Nancy Tarnai, [socialmedia@sthelenschristchurch.org](mailto:socialmedia@sthelenschristchurch.org) if you have ideas or questions.



# Cross Current

May 2025

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Easter, Book of Common Prayer*



**Christ Episcopal Church** 35350 E. Division Road, St. Helens, OR 97051  
(503) 397-1033

find us on 



Christ Episcopal Church  
PO Box 478  
St. Helens, OR 97051

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