

Rector's Report to the Vestry

Aug. 12, 2020

During these days I am more aware than ever of the need to focus on the basics of following Jesus and making disciples in and through the church. St. Andrew's mission of "Sharing God's Love" will be the work of all those who see themselves as followers of Jesus, carrying out God's call. I am also keenly aware that how this happens is changing before our eyes and the need to be open and curious about new ways, while faithfully practicing some of the ways that have been effective in the past and being willing to let go of some of the past practices that are not possible in these days.

One challenge in these days is the need to toggle between imagining and discerning what St. Andrew's is being called to and could be in and beyond this time of the pandemic and focusing upon faithfully maintaining who we are now and what we have been called to do and be. Likely that is what many are experiencing both in and outside of the church so my prayer is for wisdom, clarity and God's guidance in this work of "toggling."

During the month of July and August, my responsibilities have included:

Worship

Plan and lead weekly Sunday and mid-week Zoom worship. Includes worship leader recruitment and communication, researching recorded music and digital art, Power point design and creation and worship service leadership rotation as Officiant, Co-host and preacher. Collaborate with the Rev. Greg Stark and the Rev. Sarah Shofstal in worship planning and leadership.

Research, practice and implement digital worship "best practices" discerning what best fits St. Andrew's in our current context.

Research and put into use prayers, readings, liturgy, litanies, music and art that reflects our commitment to anti-racism.

Attend to the Diocesan communications about the status and conditions of suspended worship practices.

Work with Worship Task Group in creating and implementing a roadmap for re-gathering for in-person worship.

Volunteers are needed:

1. to be trained in new usher protocols (Volunteers do not have to have prior usher experience.)
2. to assist in sanitizing the space after use
3. to assist in running the technology for continued remote and digital access

Calls for volunteers in these areas have not had strong response. Worship Task Group is addressing this in the Aug. 11 meeting.

Research technology solutions to provide high quality digital access to worship and other ministries. This is a commitment to inclusion of all and is mindful of those who are not technologically adept. We have had great success with Zoom telephone calls ins and hope to find a way for that kind of access to be available with whatever platform we use.

Working on integrating Care Groups into re-gathering in-person process and schedule.

Continuing to curate and communicate worship and formation resources for the enrichment of St. Andrew's and beyond. Facebook, website and personal emails are used to share worship and formation resources.

Continue to read, pray and study for worship preparation.

Pastoral Care

Telephone, Zoom, text, email and snail mail correspondence as well as outdoor socially distanced in-person pastoral care, paying special attention to those who are isolated and alone. Personal notes are included in the quarterly mailing of Forward Movement devotional booklets. In person socially distanced Memorial Service for Joe Quisenberry on July 12. This was a private inurnment in the St. Andrew's Columbarium and attended by family only.

As continuing care communities begin to allow visitors, I will begin in-person visits with parish members living in these communities.

Columbarium access has been given to several family members whose loved ones are inurned in the Columbarium. These arrangements are made directly with me and include requirements for sanitizing, social distancing and masks.

In conjunction with the Congregational Development Commission we are implementing a Pastoral Care phone plan whereby trained parishioners regularly call those on the Parish Prayer List to offer contact in addition to the contacts by the Rector.

Administration

Plan and lead weekly staff meetings for communication and worship with the staff. Includes newsletter, communication and calendar overview as well as attention to specific initiatives and events.

Work with bookkeeper and parish administrator on financial accounting, communications, resource management and research directed by the Congregational Development Commission and Resource Management Commission.

Meet with the Resource Management Commission and subgroup working on the 2021 Budget. Assist in providing information and support in their work.

Meet, train and supervise the substitute cleaning service while the sexton is on vacation and taking accumulated comp time.

Formation

Participate in and support St. Andrew's VBS in a Box.

Learn the ChurchNext program for online adult formation. The first offering will be on Civil Discourse and will begin in early fall. This is a synchronistic and asynchronistic course that can be viewed together or apart and then discussed via Zoom group. Once the program year begins, the hope is to have several different courses offered so that people can select what interests and benefits them.

Continue to work with Urban League leaders on ways that we can collaborate in education and action.

Planning for St. Andrew's implementation of the guidance of Diocesan Council to read, learn and discuss "White Fragility" and the movie "13th."

The online continuation of the St. Andrew's Barefoot Dialogue on Race and Class in Elyria. This will be a continuation of a grant funded initiative from last February and will include material from the Mayor's "A Time for Listening".

Support the continuation of the Spirituality Group meeting via Zoom.

Work toward Oct. 1, beginning of work with Youth Ministry Commission to update the Youth Minister job description to prepare for the conclusion of the Rev. Greg Stark's ministry with St. Andrew's in July 2021.

Outreach

Support the transition of leadership for the Community Meals ministry.

Participate in Congregational Development Commission discussion about future of St. Andrew's Food Pantry and alternative outreach ministries to which we may be called.

Continue conversations with the Urban League about ways St. Andrew's can collaborate with their outreach efforts. Upcoming in Sept. is an Urban League crowdfunding initiative what St. Andrew's will publicize and support.

Invite and support a parishioner committed to advocacy in writing an article for the Carillon and creating a program for the fall.

Diocesan Leadership

Serve on the Commission on Ministry (COM) and as Dean of the North Central Mission Area. Working as COM liaison for Seminarian Megan Allen who is at the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, TX.

Record of Rector's Vacation and Professional Development

Vacation

Since last Vestry report - 6 and ½ days including 0 Sundays

Cumulative YTD – 13 days including 1 Sunday

(Please note that I worked remotely while out of town July 30 – Aug. 11- working 6 units spread across those days. 6 units represents ½ of a work week. Details can be provided upon request.)

Professional Development

Since last Vestry report – ½ day "Academy of Artful Leadership " online, reading and watching training videos,

Cumulative YTD - 6 ½ days including 0 Sundays

Respectfully submitted by:

The Rev. June Hardy Dorsey

Rector

8-11-2020