

## Rector's Report to the Vestry

Nov. 11 , 2020 Vestry Meeting

### **Worship**

Moving ahead in program year planning for worship. Beginning to look towards Advent and Christmas with flexible planning considering the CTL that is current and projected.

In person worship began on Sept. 13. This service began as a said service and organ music was added on Oct. 11 and will continue to be used in this service until further notice when we are able to meet in person. We were able to meet in person from Sept. 13 through Oct. 18 because the Covid Threat Level in Lorain County was yellow or orange. On Oct. 23, the Covid Threat Level changed to red , resulting in all worship moving to the Zoom platform. Lorain Co. Director of Public Health, David Covall, will meet with clergy on Monday, Nov. 23 to provide updates and projections for the Covid Threat Level in the coming weeks. Our priority continues to be health and safety and we will continue with the guidelines we have been practicing.

Planning, preparations, research and arrangements for mid-week Zoom worship continues. We are using Morning Prayer formats from spiritual communities around the world. We have used worship material from Iona, Northumbria and Corrymeela communities as well as Rite 2 Morning Prayer. Researching for indigenous Morning Prayer liturgy from a nation on the continent of Africa to use for this service.

Zoom Worship Preparations These include 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 in this endeavor. Returned to a regular inclusion of Lay Preachers in the rotation as has been our practice in the past.

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

Continue to 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.

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. Leading worship on two different platforms in a back to back schedule is more demanding than expected. The prayer, study and reading are critical for being and staying grounded in managing this configuration.

Scheduled baptism on Nov. 1 did not take place because Baby Matthew Skladan was ill. He has recovered and baptism has been rescheduled to 1 pm on Nov 15. This will use an in person format for families and a few guests and virtual participation through Facebook Live or Youtube for the larger parish and community. Other baptisms are rescheduled or yet to be scheduled for a yet to be determined time.

All Soul's Service of Remembrance and Election Eve Prayer Vigils were attended by small groups. Feedback was that it was meaningful. The method used for the collection of names for the spoken prayers in the All Soul's Service was less than ideal and will be redesigned for the 2021 service.

The theme for Advent 2020 is "Those Who Dream" and is based on the lectionary readings for the upcoming liturgical year. A mailing similar to the "Our Money Story" mailing is being planned to be sent out on Nov. 20. Additional mid-week services will complement the printed material and the coordinated worship and sermon themes.

## **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. Forward Movement devotional material is mailed to those who are isolated and/or have requested.

Plans for in person visits in continuing care communities have been put on hold until the CTL lowers in Lorain Co. Congregational Development Commission is working on a way to reach out to those who were active and mobile before the pandemic but who are now more homebound and are not attending worship and other activities.

### **Youth Minister Job Description and Search**

Include members of RMC and Vestry with the Youth Ministry Commission in this process.

## **Administration**

Completed and submitted documents directed by Diocese and National Church regarding potential BSA litigation.

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.

Church of the Redeemer has decided not to pursue a shared administrative position. The joint job description has been edited to be a solo position at St. Andrew's. As the position needs continue to be different from the current position, a change will need to be made though now it will be a solo position for St. Andrew's.

## **Formation**

Continue to promote the ChurchNext program for online adult formation. St. Andrew's has a "school" in this program titled "Learning with St. Andrew's." Response has been low and a meeting with other parishes using this material has been scheduled to learn and collaborate how this can be effective.

Anyone can access the free account through Learning at St. Andrew's. Orientation course at <https://www.churchnext.tv/library/how-to-takean-online-class/5283/about/>

Leading on line and in person book study on "White Fragility."

Restarted Barefoot at St. Andrew's Dialogue as an online offering. Because the gathering does not take place in person and because gathering around a meal is a central component of this initiative, an additional grant of \$500 from the Diocese was received to help supplement the initial grant from the Episcopal Community Service. Meals are provided from local vendors and made available for pick up or delivery. Meals are also provided for family members of the participants as a pastoral response for households under stress. This part of the ministry is funded by Parents of Young Children designated funds for support. The Barefoot at St. Andrew's Dialogue design includes an in depth survey of participants at the conclusion of the first module. The results of the survey will be compiled and shared with the Vestry and other parish leaders. Facilitators are Barefoot Dialogue trained, Imani Badillo and Nathan Carpenter.

## **Record of Rector's Vacation and Professional Development**

### **Vacation**

Since Sept. Vestry report - 7 days (9 days – equivalent of 2 days work while on vacation – 6 units Details can be provided upon request.)

Cumulative YTD – 24 days including 2 Sundays

Remaining for 2020 (6 days including 3 Sundays) 27 days provided for 2020 with 3 days carried over from 2019

**Professional Development**

Since last Vestry report – 0 days

Cumulative YTD - 6 ½ days including 0 Sundays

Upcoming vacation and professional development:

No out of town plans at this time

Vacation time away will be local for Thanksgiving and Christmas

Professional Development will be Advent and Christmas preparation retreat (possibly at Bellwether)

The Rev. June Hardy Dorsey, Rector

11-11-2020