

Rector's Report

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church and Day School

February 4, 2024

Dear People of St. Patrick's,

I offer a detailed report of the activities, work, and planning I have been engaged in over the last 7 months. My reason for doing so is that it's not always easy to describe a typical week, or day, and I believe it is important to be as transparent as I can about the scope of my work on Sunday mornings and beyond. It has been a joy to begin to get to know many of you, and I look forward to continuing to meet people for coffee and conversation so that I might understand what feeds each person spiritually, and what each person is spiritually hungry for.

I have divided my report into three main parts: Church; Church/School Partnership; and School. I am grateful to the staff, vestry, and volunteers for their dedication to the church, to the members of the Coordinating Committee for their dedication to the entire mission, and to Jalene Spain Thomas, faculty and staff partners in the Day School, and to volunteer board members for their hard work and dedication to the school. Together, we are greater than the sum of our parts, and by working and supporting each other, we will tend to this very special community, helping it to grow and thrive.

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

Five pillars of Church

Worship and Music

- ❖ **Wrote and Preached 16 sermons** between June and Christmas
- ❖ **8:15 Sunday Service** - I worked with faithful members of this congregation to officially reinstate this service. Together we created a new bulletin and established a new pattern of worship, which alternates between Holy Eucharist Rite I and Morning Prayer. This service occurs every week in the chapel, and is open to all.

- ❖ **Vestry Person of the Day** - having become the new rector, the duties of Vestry Person of the Day (VPoD) has changed to greeting newcomers, and acting as MC to fill in volunteer gaps so that worship can flow.
- ❖ **Acolyte Training** - I hosted 2 training sessions, and have recruited a number of new acolytes. We will continue to rebuild the acolyte corps over the course of the year.
- ❖ **Worship leaders summit** - in October, we held a worship leaders summit to recruit and train readers, ushers, LEMs. We will continue to encourage as many parishioners to participate as possible, giving more people the opportunity to serve, including more voices.
- ❖ **Flower Guild Flower Arranging** - On November 12th, with my encouragement the flower guild hosted an arranging session for would-be flower guild volunteers. Marnie Nicholson, Trish Heatherman and Lalie Tongour hosted. There were 15 people who participated, and a number of new people signed up to be part of the flower guild.
- ❖ **Two new services:**
 - **All Souls Evensong – and All Saints Day Sunday** – This year, I separated the observance of remembering the dead from the celebration of the saints by instituting an All Soul’s Evensong Service. Together with Adele and the Cantoris Choir, I led Evensong where we read the names of the faithfully departed during contemplative evening service. 35 people attended beyond our choir and servers, culminating in a total of 54 people. A number of parishioners used it as an opportunity for evangelism: inviting friends who were grieving to come to this special service. All Saints Day Sunday was also well-attended.
 - **Service of Spiritual Healing** – December 20th - This year, I inaugurated a service of spiritual healing before Christmas as a pastoral response to those who were hurting spiritually, physically, and emotionally during the Christmas season. 13 people attended the service, which I led with Adele, and Suzanne. I offered and administered laying on of hands, anointing and prayers of healing. I will offer this service every year, and hope to add a few more healing services throughout the year.

Pastoral Care

- ❖ Met with pastoral care leaders including Carol Hylton and Martha Johnson to get an understanding of the patterns and needs of the congregation. Supported Carol and Martha in going out to give communion to homebound folks throughout the year.
- ❖ Made 25 pastoral visits, shared communion at 9 visits with 26 people.
- ❖ Encouraged Senile Sinners group to care for two of their members (one home-bound, the other recovering) by connecting them with caregivers.

Outreach

❖ Outreach Committee

- On November 5th, I shared my sermon with four outreach leaders: Ellen Teplitz, Ellen Terpstra, Marilyn Nowalk, and Karen Melchar, who spoke about Rummage, Grate Patrol, Haiti, Samaritan Ministries and SOME. People were encouraged to speak with them after to see how they might get involved.
- November follow up meeting - we discussed next steps, and decided together that we would seek to create 2 opportunities a month for parishioners to participate in doing something after the 10am service. The committee put together bagging up laundry pods to give to Samaritan Ministries, and making 160 Sandwiches and meals for Grate patrol in January.

❖ Samaritan Ministries Gala on November 4th - Travis and I attended together with fellow parishioners Karen Melchar and Benno Schmidt, and Marilyn Nowalk.

❖ Seniors Ministries

- Mary Clute and I met with the director of Palisades Village (local seniors group) in early December. We are looking to see how to partner together in supporting seniors in our neighborhood.
- I met with Beth Boyd who is one of the directors of Seabury, an Episcopal senior living center and organization that supports seniors in the DMV. They have a number of programs, including dementia support. They may be a good partner going forward.
- Will look to create a Senior luncheon (quarterly/monthly or bi monthly) in 2024.

❖ Campus Ministry

- EDOW hosted an all-day campus ministry summit, which I attended in September. It introduced ways of thinking about what campus ministry entails, and ways of creating a ministry, and reaching out to our collegiate neighbors.
- GW Students- Dinner- I hosted a dinner for GW students on Sunday, December 3rd. We shared faith stories, and shared a Compline service together in the chapel.

❖ Haiti Ministry

- Met with Marilyn Nowalk a number of times to understand and discuss the Haiti ministry. Agreed to see how things are done over the course of the program year. The Haiti ministry has my full support.
- Mary Beth James (of the Day School) hosted a dinner for Lionel Delatour, longtime Haiti ministry partner. Jalene and I attended and we would like to support Lionel in

an art show he is hoping to produce at the World Bank. Together with St. Andrews School, we hope to partner with Lionel for an event in the autumn.

- Haiti Committee - meeting in February 2024 - I will convene the Haiti Committee to talk through the plans for the year, and to work together in responding to the need, as well as to think about how we can expand this ministry in ways that incorporates more people, while we continue to be unable to travel there.

Christian Formation

- ❖ **Book Study** - *The Book of Forgiving* - I hosted a 5-week books study on Tuesday evenings on zoom. Hoping to continue this pattern during Lent and in Eastertide.
- ❖ **Classy** - together with Lisa Barrowclough and Adele, we continued the Classy class pattern of confirmation preparation and handbells. Lisa has created a curriculum for the Spring semester focused on the Gospel of Matthew. We will bring our confirmands to the Cathedral on May 11th.

Fellowship

- ❖ **July 4th Parade** - I attended and supported this tradition, marching in the parade, and going to the large tent and gathering after the event.
- ❖ **Senile Sinners** - attended lunch with this group each month from August onward.
- ❖ **Charlie Brown Christmas** - With my blessing and gratitude, the Tucker family graciously hosted the Eric Byrd Trio at St. Patrick's on Friday, December 1st. Adele put together a movie watch with popcorn and treats, then transitioned to listening to a fun Jazz concert where Louise Tucker soloed. I promoted this event in the Day School and in the Church, and 85 people from both the church and school community attended. We hope to make this an annual event to kick off the Advent/Christmas season.

Vestry

- ❖ **Vestry retreat August 12-13**
 - On the Friday night, I hosted the Vestry for dinner at the church, sharing a meal, personal stories, and preparing our time together with scripture and prayer.
 - On Saturday, we met at Church House, and I led the vestry through a program of Morning Prayer, followed by breakfast, Lectio Divina, quiet time in the garden, reflections on the last few years, Noon Day Prayer, Lunch, and an afternoon session and spiritual discussion about where we have been, where we are, and where we

want to get to. It was important to be together as a new vestry, to listen to one another and take time to acknowledge both the difficult and joyful aspects of community.

❖ **Membership Initiative**

- Parishioner meetings - over the course of the last year, I met with 72 parishioners individually for coffee and conversation. I have emailed all “active” parishioners to invite them for conversation, and will follow up with each person over the course of the next few months.
- Membership taskforce - In consultation with the vestry, I inaugurated a membership committee taskforce, led by JB Meek and Nancy White. Together with parishioner volunteers, they will go through the membership rolls, and reach out to members we have not seen in a while to check in. The hope is that by June, we will have a better understanding of what our community actually looks like.
- New members dinner – Eleni Lobene and the Vestry hosted a lovely new members dinner in December. We will offer another evening in the winter. I will create a new members class, that will help new members get acclimated to St. Patrick’s, and help them to get to know others.

Administration

- ❖ **Parish Name** - Elysha King (Financial Administrator) and I worked with Canon Andrew Walter and John De Weert (Diocesan Chancellor) at EDOW to work with the Secretary of State’s Office to make sure our legal name matched the online filing and number.

❖ **Finance**

- Bank Accounts and signatories - we converted accounts to standard business checking accounts, which do not charge a monthly cost. We opened another checking account for the Rector’s discretionary fund. Old signatories were removed, and as it stands, the Sr. Warden, Treasurer, Rector, are the administrators of the accounts, and our Financial Administrator is a signatory.
- Accounting: Together with JB Meek and Elysha King, I went through our accounts, and suggested making changes to how we accounted for certain transactions, so that we could have a clearer understanding of our operating income/expenses, enabling us to be more transparent as we budget for the future.
- The Vestry and I decided to move from a Fiscal Year (July 1 - June 30th) to a Calendar Year budget, in consultation with the Day School auditors and our

auditor. It will help us to have a clearer understanding of our cash-flow and operating income/expenses, and falls in line with how people give to charities.

❖ **Personnel changes**

- I worked with Kathleen Hall at the diocese to think about and create 2 new positions of Parish Administrator and Financial Administrator: two part-time positions that help to divide the workload, and enable both employees to work as a team. In creating two part-time positions, we will save \$8760 off of the total budget for a full-time administrator plus bookkeeper.

❖ **Professional Development**

- I regularly meet with my professional coach, who is a Rector of a parish day school like St. Patrick's. We think about solutions to similar problems together.
- Attended convocation at my seminary, met with fellow alumni and attended lectures, and made important connections.
- Attended monthly diocesan meetings for new clergy. Am currently in a cohort, and am making connections, and learning more about diocesan resources.

Church/School Partnership

Coordinating Committee

- ❖ **Membership** - In consultation with Jalene Spain Thomas, Head of School, I added both the Vestry Treasurer (JB Meek) and the Day School Treasurer (Rebecca Kim) to the committee, which consisted of Jalene, myself, Jo Anne Nelson, Ellen Teplitz, and Melanie Gilbert.
- ❖ **Retreat** - On November 2, we gathered for a working retreat with consultant Ann Mellow and began the process of talking about our institutional mission. The purpose is to articulate and refine what our shared purpose consists of, making use of our mission statement, and the mission statement of the school, as well as their strategic planning document. Other topics of discussion include how to build healthy relationships between the church and school, and what it looks like to partner with one another on future strategic planning.
- ❖ **Walk-throughs** - In January, we had two walkthroughs of our Whitehaven campus, which will help us discuss how we can best utilize space, and support the programs of both church and school holistically.

- ❖ **Cost-Sharing Agreement** - Jo Anne Nelson, Dan Spector, and I worked together to update our existing Cost-Sharing agreement. The Vestry has approved it, and Jalene, myself, JB Meek and Rebecca Kim have signed it. We will review the agreement annually.

St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School

- ❖ **Partnership with the Head of School Jalene Spain Thomas**

- I meet with Jalene weekly to discuss all things related to the church and school
- In July Jalene and I had a half day retreat to think about the school and church partnership going forward, and the work we need to do to build a healthy relationship, as well as to think about our hopes and dreams for the future
- Jalene included myself and Jo Anne Nelson in the interviews for the new CFOO. We met with candidates, and provided feedback to Jalene.

- ❖ **Chaplain**

- Meet with Ed Thornley regularly, am a sounding board and supporter of his work.
- Chaplain's position – Jalene and I met in early January to talk holistically about the Chaplain's role, which includes numerous responsibilities:
 - Pastor for students and families, and faculty and staff
 - Religion Teacher/Head of Religion Curriculum
 - Full-time Administrator
 - Liturgical Planner for all chapels
 - Assisting clergy at St. Patrick's
- Jalene and I believe that the job description as written, is too much for one person.
- Jalene, Ed and I met in January to discuss his role and upcoming contract. We are thinking holistically about the Religion Department, the Chaplain's role, and the connective tissue between church and school, as well as the Christian formation needs of both parts of the institution.

- ❖ **Board and Executive Committee**

- Attend board and executive committee meetings monthly, and am involved in the strategic planning of the school.
- Hosted a reception for the board after the first board meeting on the Rector's terrace, which was well attended
- Attended the annual Board retreat in October

- ❖ **EDI committee (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion)**
 - I sit on the Board EDI and School EDI committees, and attend meetings
 - Met with Board Members Tom Duckenfield and Garret Lowe to discuss their race and racism project with regards to folk who were enslaved on the land St Patrick's is built on. I am working with them to connect with work being done at the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, and how we might involve school and church volunteers.
 - Invited to address the Middle School chapel for LGBTQ+ history month.
 - Invited to attend the Faculty and Staff Jewish affinity group meeting in November
- ❖ **Sustainability**
 - Met with Sam Mason, director of Sustainability a number of times. Together we have thought about how the church and school can better partner on our commitment to sustainability.
 - Rummage - hope to build upon the work Ellen Teplitz and Jo Anne Nelson did last year in linking the work with the Rummage sale to school sustainability efforts.
 - Composting -In consultation with Jalene, Sam I and have worked together to implement a consistent way to manage waste: compost/recycling/trash across the campus, including in our shared spaces like the Great Hall and Kitchen.
- ❖ **PCT - Pastoral Care Team**
 - Includes Ed Thornley, Debbie Weinberg, Julianne Rielly, Amy Yount and myself.
 - PCT was created by Jalene last year to begin to help her address potential pastoral crises, and how we might better serve students and families, faculty and staff.
 - We met together a number of times, and received feedback from division heads
 - I hosted a retreat at my home on November 13th and subsequently took our recommendations to Jalene in a December meeting.
- ❖ **Events, Chapels and Coffees**
 - Attended all the closing chapels and graduation, opening chapels, and 3 chapels per month. I was invited to preach at the opening Faculty and Staff Eucharist. I have been meeting with parents after a number of chapels for coffee.
 - Attended Green and White night with Travis. Gave short welcome address of each of the Back to School Nights, where I met parents, and attended Grandparents Day
 - I led the Advent chapels in Ed's absence, and read the prayers at the Pageants. I attended the Holiday Concert and Epiphany Chapels.

Faithfully submitted,
 Andrew +
 Rector