

## **Rector's Report Sunday November 17, 2019**

On Sunday October 13, after our Holy Eucharist services, I welcomed visitors to a “miraculously life-affirming” performance by organist virtuoso Christopher Houlihan, who worshipped with us on that Sunday morning. On Friday October 18, I participated in a Shabbat service at Rabbi Naomi Steinberg’s house (outside in her sukkah) beside the Van Duzen river, with Ashley and other guests. On October 19<sup>th</sup>, Christ Church Eureka hosted the Deanery Convocation for the clergy and lay delegates to the Diocesan Convention. That same afternoon, we held a memorial service for our late beloved parishioner Moises “Dan” Vega.

The next Monday (Oct 21), I prayed with Wiyot tribal members Ted Hernandez and Cheryl Seidner at the Adorni Center as they led hundreds of people in a prayer of thanksgiving to our Creator for the blessing of receiving back land that was stolen from them 160 years ago, after the Wiyot massacre (in 1860): the sacred Tuluwat village on Indian island, where they hold their annual “world renewal ceremony.” It was a beautiful and historic moment and a powerful reminder that our church and most of our homes have been built on Wiyot land. On Tuesday Oct 22, I prayed with a small gathering at the Blue Lake cemetery as we buried the body of Dan Vega. And on Tuesday afternoon, I went to Catherine Mace’s house to record her presentation of the 150-year-old history of Christ Church Eureka, which is about 45 minutes long and can be watched on youtube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4rLixwNal5Q>, where it already has over 45 views.

On October 24 and 31, I practiced yoga under the guidance of Jamie Kessloff on the newly painted labyrinth in the chapel with a handful of other Christ Church Eurekaans. On October 30, I preached and celebrated Holy Eucharist with Sister Teresa and the Associates of the Community of the Transfiguration who met at the Rev. Anne Pierson’s house on the feast day of John Wyclif.

On Sunday October 27, we held worship services at 8 and 10:30 AM even though we were experiencing a power outage. As the outdoor sunlight shined through the stained glass windows, some of us felt that Jill Stover (who passed away on October 23) was shining her love and favor upon us. Although we were planning to host a Monster Mash organ concert on Sunday October 27<sup>th</sup>, we had to cancel due to the power outage since the organ requires electric power.

On October 30, some of us unwrapped the new chairs and moved the old ones that are in good condition into the basement and the old ones in poor condition into the Godly Play room. On Nov 3, during the Chamber Players of the Redwoods concert, David Tschoepe (of Sts. Martha and Mary) and Arthur MacDonald (a retired Catholic priest) visited and took about 30 old chairs (in poor condition) for Arthur’s homeless outreach chapel.

On November 7, the delegates for Diocesan Convention drove down to the McClellan Conference center in Sacramento for a deanery meeting at 4 PM to elect a member from the Semper Virens deanery for the diocesan Board of Trustees (to replace Fr. Shewmaker who had to step down due to health reasons). The two candidates were Catherine Mace and the Rev. Nancy Streufert. Although the vote was close, the Rev. Nancy Streufert was elected.

At diocesan convention, we held several elections and passed some important resolutions, including a resolution to establish a Diocesan Commission on the Environment that will encourage and support congregations like us to be environmentally friendly and to minister in ways that honor Creation. This resolution coincides beautifully with the theme of this year’s

Interfaith Thanksgiving Sing, which will be held at Christ Church on Nov 20th at 7 PM. The theme this year is “Gratitude and Care for Creation.” At convention, we had fruitful conversation and debate about the proposed resolutions. It was a real honor and privilege to be a part of conversations about resolutions that can impact thousands of people in positive ways. We heard presentations about the Pathways Youth Pilgrimage and Camp Living Waters, both of which I helped lead over the summer. At Camp Living Waters, we partnered with our sister diocese, the Episcopal Diocese of Honduras; and I look forward to supporting, connecting and collaborating with our sister diocese and “Sandy in Honduras” ([sandyinhonduras.org](http://sandyinhonduras.org)), who has been providing medical treatment for hundreds of Honduran children with congenital disabilities. Sandy Shultz of “Sandy in Honduras” gave a presentation at the ECW gathering on Wednesday Nov 13.

At the heart of the convention was a presentation by a guest speaker named Mary Parmer, who spoke about evangelizing through invitation, welcoming through hospitality, and connecting others to the church by providing a sense of belonging. She has written a book titled *Invite Welcome Connect*, with a foreword by our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry; and I would like the vestry read this book in preparation for our next retreat.

Speaking of retreats, our special sesquicentennial guest of the month of November was the Rev. Suzanne Guthrie, who stayed at the Transfiguration House from Nov 15 to 18, and who led a daylong retreat in the Chapel of Our Merciful Saviour on Saturday Nov 16. The retreat was titled “Seasons of the Soul: Liturgical Year as Mystical Journey.” About 35 people gathered to hear Guthrie’s poetic words and watch her slideshow of stunning art and music intended to help us enter into the practice of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, etc. Just as Guthrie invited us to see the Liturgical year as a template and guide for the spiritual journey, so too did her sermon on Sunday November 17<sup>th</sup> ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OmyCC\\_F9xt8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OmyCC_F9xt8)) invite us to see the ancient Jewish temple as a template and guide for the spiritual journey. On the spiritual journey, there are times when it might feel like God has abandoned us. The great Christian mystics have taught, however, that those are often the times when God is actually shining is light upon us most powerfully. Amen.

