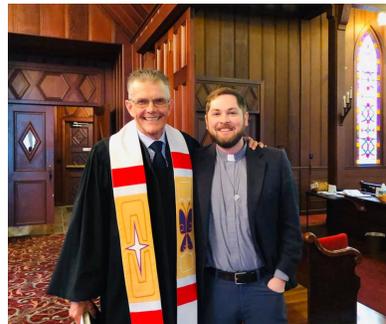


Rector's Report Sunday December 15, 2019

Several months ago, I asked the Humboldt Interfaith Fellowship if Christ Church Eureka could host the annual Thanksgiving Sing this year since we are celebrating our 150th anniversary. I was excited when they agreed, but then disappointed when I realized I would not be able to attend since Ashley and I would be driving down to San Diego on the same day of the event (Nov 20th). Because I was not going to be present for the Sing, I agreed to write some words about the event for the Times-Standard (<https://www.times-standard.com/2019/11/16/faiths-unite-for-annual-thanksgiving-sing/>) and for the program bulletin. I'm thrilled that the event went smoothly and was so well attended (around 250!). I'm especially grateful to Merry Phillips for coordinating with other choirs and for the Venerable Pam Gossard for welcoming everyone. I was also disappointed that I had to miss Jill Stover's memorial service, but glad that Mother Lesley was able to preside and read my homily.

Ashley and I drove down to San Diego to attend the American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature (AAR-SBL) Annual meeting from Nov 20 to Nov 28. Ashley and I met at this same conference, when it was held in San Francisco 8 years ago. In past years, we have presented academic papers, but this year we met with our editors to discuss our forthcoming books and connected with old friends and colleagues. This year, I became a member of the Anglican Association of Biblical Scholars (AABS), a group that meets annually to learn, worship, and fellowship together. In San Diego, the AABS gathered at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Paul's for fellowship, Eucharist, dinner and a presentation by my editor the Rev. Dr. Neil Elliott (Senior Acquiring Editor for Lexington/Fortress Academic). His presentation was titled "What is Anglican about Anglican Readings of Scripture?" I also attended a panel on the Future of Anglican Studies, where I reconnected with many clergy colleagues, including the dean of Grace Cathedral, the Very Rev. Dr. Malcolm Young, and a former mentor, the Rev. Dr. Daniel Joslyn-Siemiatkoski. On Sunday, I worshipped with the former president of Church Divinity School of the Pacific Episcopal seminary, Dr. Donn Morgan at the cathedral, where Dr. Jane Redmont guest preached. I attended several AAR-SBL presentations within the Johannine Literature unit (in which I have presented in past years) as well as a presentation on "The Comic Book as Mystical Text" by my friend Dr. David M. Odorisio, who preached at Christ Church Eureka on Good Friday 2019. On our road trip back home, Ashley and I spent the night in Cambria CA where I proposed to her four years ago (and where Bishop Beisner served as vicar and chaplain many years ago). We drove home on Thanksgiving, as Thomas and Sanford hosted a wonderful Thanksgiving meal for about 35 guests in Lewis Hall.

I was glad to return to Eureka in time to launch our 150th liturgical year with Lessons and Carols on Sunday December 1st, followed by our Advent Soup Supper series led by Dan and Karen Price, exploring the theologies of Richard Rohr and Karl Barth. (You can listen to Dan Price's presentation on Karl Barth here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yuR8kWQTncY>). On Wednesday December 4th, the Very Rev. Sara Potter and I drove down to the Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg to attend the Fresh Start clergy meeting.



[After consultation with the bishop, the canon to the ordinary, the diocesan director of operations, the Christ Church wardens and vestry, I filed a police report with the Eureka Police Department on Monday December 9th regarding the aggressive and dangerous behavior of Sts. Martha and Mary parishioner Michael Morgan who threatened “physical disobedience” at our Thanksgiving Sing. This implied threat along with Michael’s record of allegedly carrying weapons to public meetings (including a worship service) compelled the vestry to temporarily suspend Michael from all Christ Church Eureka and Sts. M & M activities and ban him from all Christ Church Eureka affiliated properties. He has already disrespected the vestry’s decision by showing up at the Christ Church office on Thursday (Dec 12) and apparently setting up a Facebook event for Sts. M & M. If he arrives on the premises of Christ Church and Sts. M & M, he needs to be told to leave. If he does not leave, the police need to be called to escort him off campus.]