

Rector's Report (submitted to Christ Church Eureka vestry on Sunday June 28, 2020)

Since our last vestry meeting, the Regathering Task Force has met four times (May 26, June 9, 16, 23) and has created the draft of a four-stage plan as well as a congregational survey, which has been distributed to parishioners through email and postal mail.

The personnel committee met with Emily Caffrey on May 26 and after some conversation regarding her job performance, we all decided it was best for Emily's health and the health of the church to dissolve her working relationship with Christ Church. We gave her a three-month severance package and she received this news with enormous relief and gratitude. We then asked Thomas Swanger if he would be willing to serve as an Interim Administrative Assistant to the Rector for the next three months and I am thrilled that he said yes!

On June 1, Thomas rang the church bells for 10 minutes at noon to signal hope during the coronavirus crisis. On June 2, I recorded a special "Compline During a Time of Crisis" video on YouTube, which has generated about 100 views. On Saturday June 6, I spoke with Jeanne Fish over the phone for about a half hour. Although I could only comprehend a few words and phrases, she was actually quite talkative. I prayed with her and gave her last rites. She passed away a few days later, on the evening of June 10th at the age of 99.

On Sunday June 7, my article in the June Chronicle was published in the Times-Standard. I received several emails from the Christ Church Eureka community and beyond thanking me for the article.

From June 11 – 16, I took a prayer retreat, which began and ended with a prayerful drive through the Avenue of the Giants to the Redwoods Monastery in Whitethorn.

On June 18, the Diocesan Commission on Ministry interviewed Marcia Hansen and recommended her to the bishop for ordination to the vocational diaconate. She will be ordained on August 26th. I have served as her liaison to the COM since she became a postulant in March 2019. Also, at that same meeting, Katie Evenbeck became an official candidate for priesthood. I have served as her liaison to the COM since February 2019.

I've been meeting with Merry, David and Paul each Wednesday morning to discuss worship music, including plans for virtual choir. They have produced two virtual choir videos ("Common Doxology" and "When We Face an Unknown Future"), which have been included in Sunday morning worship and have been posted on YouTube and Facebook, generating about 100 views each. There will be more to come.

On June 23rd, the personnel committee met with David Powell and John Hammond for performance evaluations. A couple days later, John Hammond submitted his resignation, explaining that participation in meetings is detrimental to his health.

On June 24th, I participated in a zoom conversation about the Psalms of Lament (and imprecatory psalms) with the Rev. Michael Barham (a clergy colleague in the Diocese of California). Although it was not well publicized, I posted an invitation on the Christ Church Eureka facebook page. There were about ten people in attendance from five different Episcopal churches.

Since the last vestry meeting, the birthday visitation team (Pam, Paul, Christina, and me) has visited Mtr. Susan, Marty, Daniel H., Doug M. Spencer, Thom B., and Mtr. Lesley at their homes.


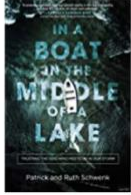
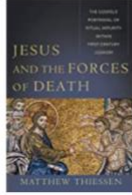
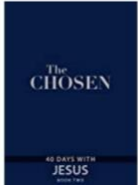
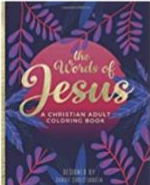


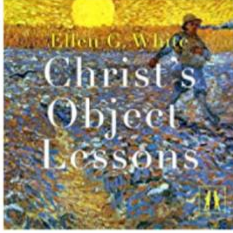
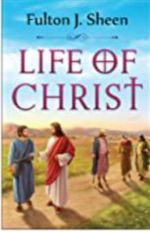

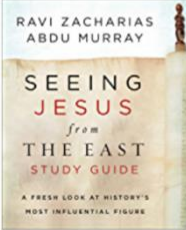
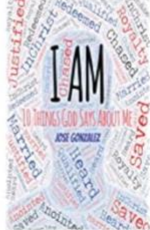
My book, *Theodicy and Spirituality in the Fourth Gospel*, has finally been released and, at the time of this writing, it is #10 on Amazon's best-selling new releases category: "Jesus, the Gospels & Acts."

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