

Rector's Report (submitted to Christ Church Eureka vestry on October 2, 2020)

- On Sunday September 6, I resumed the Inquirers' and Confirmation Class, which last met in March 2020. I led an hour-long class session on Theology and the Nicene Creed on zoom (after two previous sessions on Bible and Church History). I recorded the lesson and added the recording and lecture notes to the Christ Church Eureka confirmation page here: <https://christchurcheureka.org/confirmation/> so that others who missed the live conversation can catch up.
- On Tuesday September 8, the personnel committee met with Merry and Thomas. We spoke with Merry about David's modified responsibilities during this time when choirs are not permitted to gather in person. He is mostly serving as a cantor on Sundays rather than as a choir director, although he plans to have some online meetings with the choir to check in with them in the coming weeks. Also, after three months of serving as our interim Administrative Assistant, we offered Thomas the Administrative Assistant position on a long-term basis and he accepted. We are considering changing his title to "Church Administrator."
- Also, on September 8, the new usher team and I gathered outside the chapel to record a Regathering Video to help people learn about what they can expect and what will be expected of all of us during our outdoor worship gatherings. You can view the Regathering Video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aRYyG_3r56w, which has over 100 views.
- The Sesquicentennial Planning committee met on September 9 and we discussed tentative plans for our celebration on Sunday February 14 when Bishop Megan will hopefully visit us in person to confirm, receive, and reaffirm those who have taken the Inquirers and Confirmation Class. We will be asking local and state government officials to write letters of congratulations for the church and I will be asking the Most Rev. Michael Curry to write a letter of congratulations for us, to be read on that day.
- On September 12, the Commission on Ministry hosted a "Day of Discernment" online for those interested in entering the ordination process. I attended as a COM member and also a clergy sponsor for Destiny Preston. I attended two other COM meetings this month: on Sept 3 and 17.
- I started meeting with parishioners and newcomers in person this month. For instance, I met with Cathy Nickalou-Smith and her partner Barry on Sept 18. I gave them a socially-distanced tour of the church while masked and then we sat outside the chapel at an appropriate distance. I think they would both fit in beautifully at Christ Church!
- On September 19, we held our first outdoor, in-person gathering since COVID-19. We formed a new team of ushers and followed all of the appropriate guidelines based on our thorough regathering plan. The worship service, which was the Liturgy of the Word

(BCP p. 355-360), was only about 45 minutes long. Generally, everyone followed the guidelines well.

- I had a doctor's appointment with Dr. Libre Johnson through zoom on September 22. I have elevated blood pressure and high cholesterol and I may need to start taking medication unless I can bring the numbers down through diet and exercise.
- On Thursday September 24, Christ Church Eureka was invited by the bishop's office to share our plans for stewardship this year. Our senior warden Royal McCarthy led an excellent presentation for the diocese on zoom, using the email that Thomas sent to the congregation regarding our stewardship dinner plans. I added some brief comments after Royal's presentation. After the zoom meeting, Peggy Doyle (member of the Bishop's Executive Staff) wrote, "Thank you both for the wonderful presentation. The group loved it! You both rock!"
- On Friday September 25, I started meeting with the deacons and the other Christ Church Eureka clergy at the Rev. Anne Pierson's house outside, where we plan to hold our vestry retreat on Saturday October 17 from 10 AM to 11:30 AM.
- Also on Friday Sept 25, Ashley and I got our flu shots and I was tested for COVID-19. My results came back negative.
- From September 22 to 25, I edited portions of our first Virtual "Sundays at 4" Organ concert which Paul Gossard recorded, featuring performances by Merry Phillips, Thomas Swanger, and Doug Moorehead. The concert premiered on the Christ Church Eureka YouTube channel on Sunday Sept 27 at 4 PM. You can view the Virtual Organ Concert here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nmnA-TWcOSM>, which already has over 150 views.
- On Saturday September 26, Royal, Pam, Paul, Kathy and I gathered at Sequoia Park to record a virtual Sacred Saunter service in honor of St. Francis, whose feast day is October 4. The virtual Sacred Saunter service will premiere on the Christ Church Eureka YouTube channel on Saturday Oct 3 at 11 AM. You can view the Sacred Saunter here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MO46k89OJ3c>
- Finally, I will be teaching a class on the Gospel of John through the diocesan Center for Bible Study on Wednesdays from 1:30 to 2:30 PM, Oct 7 to Nov 11. And I will be guest speaking and preaching for Christ Church Sausalito's Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program. I will be leading a meeting for them on Oct 5, guest speaking on Nov 9, and guest preaching on Sunday Nov 15. The sermon will be pre-recorded so I can still be with the Christ Church Eureka congregation on that Sunday morning.