

St. Hilda St. Patrick Episcopal Church  
Vicar's Report  
April 5, 2025

Dear Friends,

We had a very full, and busy March. Me not being on vacation was part of that, but there were 12 entries in the service register. Pastoral visits, Evening Prayer and Potluck, and Commons Midday Prayer – in addition to Ash Wednesday – add shading to the life of our congregation beyond Sunday morning. At the end of March, our average Sunday attendance was 40, down two from the end of February. Since our last meeting (with this decreased interval) I've preach and presided at two Sunday eucharists and made three pastoral visits.

I had an excellent meeting on March 20 with the Rev. Cn. Cristi Drane Chapman, canon to the ordinary, with action items for both of us. She is, on behalf of the bishop, gathering as much information as she can about interest on loans and terms that may or may not have been adopted or communicated when notes were reissued. Carol has been a great asset in getting that information to me to share with the canon. I was able to more fully paint the desire for our DIF withdrawal – and asking for it now – as runway for when we need it. She confirmed that the Board of Directors and its Steering Committee are not used to congregations looking as far ahead as we have.

Thank you all for your hard work over the last year as we have been taking steps for discerning what's next – and the work you'll do in acting on what's next. That effort helped me show Cn. Chapman that we're acting in extremely good faith and are being team players. The Steering Committee has asked if standing permission to withdraw \$50,000 – about the shortage of this year's budget – is an acceptable start, rather than the entire \$140,000. That decision is in your hands, and there is a resolution draft in our Drive folder.

Another 12 Step group will be meeting at St. Hilda St. Patrick starting April 22. The Edmonds-Lynnwood-Mukilteo district does not currently have a young people's meeting, and that will be starting on Tuesday nights. AA defines young people like Mainline Protestantism – people under 35. There is a target to help people who have entered sobriety at younger ages (some before they turned 21) and show other younger people that long-term sobriety is possible.

I am looking forward to our retreat on Saturday! I will have a separate agenda ready for us, but the broad sketches are 1) business session 2) Mutual Ministry Goals 3) Dinners for 8 and long term planning for implementation. A draft agenda for the business session is in the drive. For Mutual Ministry Goals I hope you have some ideas! Mine include the website and the statements generated at Partnership for Renewal. I am looking forward to concrete planning for our May 4 and June 1 gatherings. I plan for us to take an anonymous strawpoll ourselves, and possibly try Ranked Choice Voting. If you're unfamiliar, take some time to learn!

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Joseph Peters-Mathews  
Vicar