

St. Hilda St. Patrick Episcopal Church  
Vicar's Report  
20 July 2025

Dear Friends,

What a whirlwind month! Since we last met our average Sunday attendance has teetered between 43-44. At our meeting I will have preached and presided at four Sunday Eucharists, officiated one Evening Prayer (with potluck), and made one home communion visit. I've had one meeting with people who took *Invite, Welcome, Connect* on June 1 and have given two additional copies to people not on the Bishop's Committee. I am looking forward to our mini-retreat on Saturday, and I apologize again for last week's false start.

I will be away on August 31 and September 14. Those dates were just finalized last night, so Chris and I have not started a supply search yet. On August 3, Dan'l Markham from Everett Gospel Mission will be preaching and presenting on the realities of poverty in Snohomish County. He and I had coffee a few weeks ago and I was heartened by the work they are doing at helping the homeless population and working with governments to change the systems – while working with people in churches (and elsewhere) to dispel myths about poverty. I will be commending their Poverty 101 training in the coming months.

I am excited about all the special events we have scheduled for the next four months! They are at the bottom of the agenda and I hope everyone makes their best effort to attend and invite someone. Kathleen and I have been working on the website and are making decisions about its future. She has done an excellent job taking on a volunteer role that could be summed up as social media manager. We have had visitors and people who've been away returning – and at least two people interested in formal membership. That's something of a challenge because The Episcopal Church doesn't manage membership as formally as some more protestant traditions, but I'm working with them! Others are stepping into more leadership roles.

I finally have an update from the Board of Directors about the Diocesan Investment Fund. In short, the Board would like representatives from St. Hilda St. Patrick to attend the August meeting, which is August 21 in the late afternoon. I will work with the wardens and Carol on advanced preparation information for them, and see who is interested in attending.

I have proposed two mutual ministry goals for us to all work on this calendar year, which is halfway over. The first is the June 1 meeting that we had. We did the work and it was good work with a solid result and direction. The other goal I've proposed is one last year's Bishop's Committee committed to regarding the budget. Getting from points A to B is our task now. Depending on how Saturday goes, I plan to announce a series on *Invite, Welcome, Connect* to run Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. starting on July 27. If you are interested in teaching a chapter, please let me know. We have hard work in front of us, and the Spirit can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Keep discerning, keep working, keep praying; I know you will.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Joseph Peters-Mathews  
Vicar