

St. Hilda St. Patrick Episcopal Church
Vicar's Report
17 August 2025
Submitted 11 August 2025

Dear Friends,

Wow what a month! I don't know why, but it feels like we just met last Sunday – and that is clearly not the case! Through August 10, our average Sunday attendance is 44. At our meeting I will have presided over four Sunday morning Eucharists and preached at three of them. I made my last visit to A Beautiful Living Adult Family Home after Janet Olson's family said she's adjusted enough and will still join us on Sundays monthly. We have had an extremely busy, and productive August, and we're only halfway through.

This month I have been looking at the future's special events. I continue collaborating with Kathleen and others on the website and the best ways to market events. Lisa Goche has joined Kathleen and a communications team is in the works! Dawn is spearheading ministries to create information cards for a ministry fair on September 14 (so as to keep the Welcome Sunday focused on welcome). I will be away that Sunday, returning from my 20th high school reunion. Mother Carola will serve as supply, and an instructed Eucharist is potentially in the works.

Welcome Sunday is an agenda item for our meeting – to figure out what we're doing regarding food and hospitality. This has historically been coordinated and facilitated by the Bishop's Committee. Yesterday's barbecue was a huge success (we'll hear more at our meeting) and I need your help and encouragement to keep the energy up about our upcoming events! Kathleen and I managed check-in at the cookout, and were really excited to hear all the different ways that people found out about the event! After missing Welcome Back Sunday for two years (vacation and sabbatical) I will be here this year, and Susy is slated to preach. Our marketing for this year has shifted to Welcome Sunday to emphasize that all are welcome, whether they're new to this program year or are returning after summer or other time away.

Another item for our agenda is whether to host Everett Gospel Mission's Poverty 101 class next year. Dan'l Markham preached in early August and introduced us to some of the work that EGM does. Please review the two documents from EGM that are in the shared drive and be ready at our meeting to discuss what you think. Unlike some other attempts at partnership in the past, they have clear punchlists and procedures for what is expected of us if that's an option we take.

We are plunging along with great intention and great plans getting more people involved in a variety of ways. This week I will probably start sourcing some materials for Episcopal 101 because 3-4 inquirers have asked about joining and being received or confirmed. Relatedly, Tiffany and I are collaborating to clean up rolls for the most accurate data about our church.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Joseph Peters-Mathews
Vicar