

St. Hilda St. Patrick Episcopal Church
Vicar's Report
September 21, 2025
Submitted September 19, 2025

Dear Friends,

What a busy month! When we meet on Sunday I will have preached and presided at two Eucharists since our last meeting and presided at one more — where Susy preached a phenomenal sermon! Kim is scheduled to preach our St. Francis Day, transferred, sermon on October 5, and the Rev. Cn. Cristi Chapman will be preaching and presiding at her visit on October 19. I have used my six Sundays as allotted by my Letter of Agreements — and I need to borrow one against next year (thought I stopped rolling Sundays-not-taken over two years ago) to attend a wedding in November on the East Coast. I will take responsibility for scheduling supply, and that expense is mine and Brandon's.

I did not plan to basically be away for two weeks entirely, but that is how it shook out. We had a lovely trip to Stockholm visiting palaces and museums and eating spectacular food. Unfortunately, we brought COVID home with us. It was relatively mild for us both and Topher was spared. I tested negative in time to go to Alabama for my 20th high school class reunion. I had a good time and I'm glad I went. I think that I will be able to prioritize those in five-year increments going forward. It was very good to see people at official events and in separately scheduled coffees and lunches. By Sunday, though, it was time for me to be back!

Because of the illness in our family Topher's tonsillectomy was rescheduled for next month. While that is disappointing, it has given us the opportunity to have a better understanding of what our daily-to-weekly routine will look like. Right now I think I will target my weekday "work" hours to be 9:15 a.m. – to 4 p.m. on Monday and Thursday, in the office or charging my car and reading / otherwise preparing. Depending on what each Sunday looks like (whether I'm there 7–12 or 8–12 or some other combination), the remaining 90 minutes to two hours will be sprinkled into Tuesday, Wednesday, or Friday mornings while Finny is at preschool.

Thank you all for the great work you've done between meetings! The final (first) document from Everett Gospel Mission is available in the drive. I am very excited about the work the stewardship committee is doing with a narrative budget already, and I'm looking forward to this year's pledge campaign. I expect we'll have fruitful discussions about Plan B on Sunday. Between now and our October meeting, I will review some materials from the College for Congregational Development about change management so that we can have plans for announcing whatever forward direction we're going with God.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Joseph Peters-Mathews
Vicar