

St. Hilda St. Patrick Episcopal Church
Vicar's Report
December 21, 2025
Submitted December 15, 2025

Dear Friends,

Our average Sunday attendance for 2025, currently is 44. Our estimated virtual attendance average is 13. When we meet on Sunday I will have preached and presided at five Sunday services. As you are all aware, I announced my resignation on November 30. On paper my last day will be December 31, though my last day with you all will be December 28. Before discerning the call to resign, my family had plans to go right from church to Friday Harbor on the 28th. Chris has been in regular contact with the Canon to the Ordinary. On Sunday we'll be reviewing (and hopefully approving) my separation agreement, as we've modified and specified from the diocesan template.

I will note that in the Drive is a notice about renewal from ordained ministry. It is not about me! Someone was willingly released from their ordination vows, and all clergy in the diocese, vestries and bishop's committees in the diocese, and bishops of The Episcopal Church are given notice. I'm merely passing it along.

Episcopal 101 has gone well in our first three sessions! Lisa Goché will be received; David Raese, Kathleen Moore, and Max Leggett will be confirmed; Bill Vogeley will be reaffirming his baptismal vows. Dawn Fitzgibbons is going to lead a session on January 4 on Episcopal Polity. I've asked Leah to lead a discussion on the 11th based around the conclusion to *A People Called Episcopalians*.

Susy and I met on December 8 to work through worship planning. We will talk in the Bishop's Committee meeting about transition plans — which the budget will impact. You are in good hands all around, and you are doing an excellent job working to maintain care and stability for the congregation. Chris Kelley has a document of transition questions that I am working through. One bit of information I'll be adding to it is the boat in the parking lot. Today I sent certified letters to the last known owners (and new interest) in the boat and trailer, thus starting a process of the church taking legal ownership of those items. I believe this falls into the category of "other duties as assigned."

Christmas services have been set. The carol sing will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a mental reset to begin Eucharist at 6 p.m. I am relying on Dawn and Kathleen to help get the lighting right so that it's not so aggressive this year. We'll have a 10 a.m. Eucharist on Christmas Day. As the leadership of the congregation I hope to see you at one of those celebrations of the Feast of the Incarnation if you are in town.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Joseph Peters-Mathews
Vicar