

Rector's Report (submitted to Christ Church Eureka vestry on Sunday May 24, 2020)

On April 28 and 30, I guest lectured on the Jewish tradition of lament and arguing with God in Ashley's Judaism class at Humboldt State University. The students seemed exceptionally engaged with the content, even though I was guest lecturing through zoom.

On May 4, my essay on the readings for Easter 6A was published on the [Modern Metanoia](#) blog.

On May 5, I was asked by the Rev. Chip Larrimore of Christ Episcopal Church in Sausalito to serve as the guest speaker for the parish's "Consecration Sunday," a special stewardship program, that would require me to be in Sausalito on October 5 (Monday), November 9 (Monday) and November 15 (Sunday). They will be covering my travel expenses and will even pay us for a supply priest to cover the one Sunday that I will be gone. I feel especially honored to be asked and I will explore the possibility of using the "Consecration Sunday" program here in Eureka, a program that seems to result in an increase of at least 15% of giving.

I've been continuing to meet with the diocesan Commission on Ministry, working as the co-chair of the diocesan Academic Committee, and serving as liaison to Marcia Hansen (Candidate for Diaconate) and Katie Evenbeck (Candidate for Priesthood and Director of St. Dorothy's Rest). I've been meeting with the personnel committee and we are planning to meet with Emily for a check-in on Tuesday May 26. I am also in discussion with Merry, David and Paul about starting a virtual choir.

During my pre-visitation meeting with Bishop Megan, we discussed some personnel issues as well as an update on the Title IV (Ecclesiastical Discipline) Canon complaint that Mike Morgan filed against me. The complaint has been dismissed by the diocese with a recommendation for us (Mike and me) to meet together with a professional mediator.

On May 14, in promotion of our sesquicentennial service with Bishop Megan, I performed a gimmick on Facebook which involved kicking a hacky sack footbag 150 times. The video generated over 800 views on Facebook (and over 80 views on YouTube).

On Sunday May 17, the zoom platform started crashing in Europe and the east coast so I purchased the zoom webinar feature that morning, which took some getting used to but seemed more reliable. In the end, our special 150th anniversary service went remarkably smoothly, especially considering the fact that we had some rocky rehearsals and several potential glitches. The service generated about 120 views live and over 330 total views so far.

On May 19, a small group of Christ Church Eurekans visited Nellie at her house to drop off birthday gifts, decorate her front yard, pray the birthday blessing and sing the birthday song because it was her 80th birthday. Pam and I are now thinking about doing drive-by birthday blessings each Sunday afternoon.

On May 20 and 21, I participated in the Clergy Conference on zoom. Our special guests were Patricia Lewis, a Nonprofit Professional (who spoke about philanthropy, mission and vision) and the Rev. Canon Timothy M. Dombek, the Canon for Stewardship and Planned Giving for the Diocese of Arizona. Their presentations were helpful but the content felt mostly out of sync with the current situation that the clergy are now facing.

(Note: My book which was initially scheduled to be released in March was delayed to April 15, then May 15, and now June 15 as a result of COVID-19. I have a good feeling about this June 15 date ☺)