

Rector's Report (for vestry meeting on February 28, 2021)

After a surprisingly successful [online Annual Meeting](#) on January 31, we launched into an extra-busy February...

- I continued teaching my online class on Celtic Spirituality and English Mysticism for the Center for Anglican Learning and Leadership (CALL) through Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP). The class includes over 20 students from around the world.
- Thanks to Anne Van Zandt (who informed me of the event on Facebook), I participated in a “Three Night Celtic Dialog Between Pagan & Christian: Exploring Brigid the Goddess & St. Brigid of Kildare” hosted online by St. Brigid’s Episcopal Church in Frederick CO on Feb 2 (Brigid’s Feast Day), 9, and 16. The Dialogue was co-led by UCC Pastor Kenneth McIntosh and Celtic Shaman Lilly Weichberger. I learned about the Rock of Cashel in Cashel County in Ireland, which includes a stone carving of the Twelve Apostles led by St. Brigid (“The Mary of the Gaels”). This gave new energy to an idea previously expressed to me about including a painting of St. Mary Magdalene next to the St. Peter painting (by Fr. Shag) in Lewis Hall.
- On February 5 (Friday), I took a mini pilgrimage to our church’s first location on 4th and E Streets to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Bishop Kip’s Consecration of the church on February 5, 1871. I live-streamed a brief description of the commemorative pilgrimage on Facebook, which you can view on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MpaNdv9pIXI>. The Facebook currently (and appropriately) has 150 views!
- On Sunday February 7, after an excellent homily by the Venerable Pam Gossard, Mother Sara Potter gave a guest presentation on the sacrament of the Reconciliation of a Penitent, also known as “Shriving.” You can view her presentation “Shriving with Mother Sara” in two parts here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gga9gsvMpNI> (Part One) and here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y0lb-rBb2no> (Part Two).
- On the early morning of February 11 (Thursday), I participated in an Executive Committee meeting of the Anglican Association of Biblical Scholars. We plan to host an online meeting on Saturday June 12 at 9 AM featuring a panel of biblical lecturers from across the global Anglican Communion. Through my connection to Professor John Kater (who teaches at Ming Hua Theological College in Hong Kong), I reached out to Hong Kong professor [Dr. Stephen Lim](#), who agreed to be a panelist, even though 9 AM here is 1 AM in Hong Kong.
- On the afternoon of February 12 (Friday), I gave Nancy Judith Corran a tour of Christ Church. Nancy Judith Corran is a Roman Catholic Priest, ordained by the Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community (MMACC) in San Diego. She is also the wife of Pastor Rus Kosits, the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Eureka.

- On the evening of February 12, I participated in an online presentation hosted by Grace Cathedral in San Francisco and co-led by the Revs. Jude Harmon and Lauren Artress, the founder of Veriditas the Worldwide Labyrinth Project. Some other Christ Church Eurekans joined me for this online presentation about the Artress's new book *The Path of the Holy Fool: How the Labyrinth Ignites Our Visionary Powers* (Rose Petal, 2020).
- On the evening of February 13 (Saturday), I participated in an online presentation by John Philip Newell, with whom I had traveled to Iona in 2019. The presentation was titled "Spiritual Exile & Seeds of Promise: A Livestream Teaching & Meditation with John Philip Newell."
- On Sunday February 14, Bishop Megan helped us celebrate the 150th anniversary of Bishop Kip's Consecration of the church by preaching and celebrating Holy Eucharist from her home, through zoom. She also blessed the time capsule, which contains several items associated with our sesquicentennial celebrations (worship booklets, concert DVDs, Chronicles, Annual Meeting Booklets, mug, mask, Spring 2020 Humboldt Historian magazine featuring articles about Christ Church, etc.). We intend to install the time capsule in a vault under the altar. Bishop Megan joined us for Coffee Hour at noon and then spoke with the Confirmands at 12:30 PM. Then, at 1 PM, she met with the vestry, as pictured below. You can view +Megan's homily here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7K8iHmA5nqo> (which includes the premiere of the virtual choir singing Cohen's "Hallelujah").



- On Sunday afternoon February 14, we premiered the Epiphany Concert, which has been described as "our best concert yet." The concert served as the final celebration of our 150th anniversary (and also as a celebration of St. Valentine's Day). You can view the Epiphany Concert here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TKMtOnqYfkI>

- We launched our weekly Healing Compline service with Deacon Anne through zoom on Tuesday February 16 at 7 PM. I have livestreamed several of the subsequent Healing Compline services on the Christ Church Eureka Facebook page.
- On February 17 (Ash Wednesday), we live-streamed an Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes service at noon. During this service, I announced the passing of our beloved sister in Christ, Dottie Lewis, who died the previous night. From 1 – 2 PM, Mother Lesley offered Ashes-to-go for parishioners who drove through the church parking lot. Then from 4 – 5 PM, I offered Ashes-to-go for parishioners who drove through the church parking lot, while also handing out a Lenten packet of communion wafers, worship booklets, Forward Day by Day devotional booklet and a Lent Madness Saintly Scorecard. Over 40 people showed up to receive the imposition of ashes. View the Ash Wednesday service here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLSq_4u6Sjw



- On February 18 (Thursday), the Commission on Ministry met for a three-hour meeting. As the co-chair of the Academic Committee, I will be reviewing the General Ordination Exam (GOE) results next month.
- On the morning of February 20 (Saturday), the relatively new vestry members met online for a Vestry Orientation meeting, which can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fqgiA7MA1MY>
- On Sunday February 21, we observed the First Sunday in Lent by praying the Great Litany and hosting guest preacher Dr. Rachel Wheeler, a professor of theology at the University of Portland and former Eureka resident. She was a former colleague of mine at the GTU and is the author of *Desert Daughters, Desert Sons: Rethinking the Christian Desert Tradition* (Liturgical Press, 2020) and we discussed some of her work on desert spirituality during coffee hour. We also learned that she previously worked at the Booklegger in Eureka. You can view her homily here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fqgiA7MA1MY> .