

## Rector's Report (for vestry meeting on July 25, 2021)

- After our online vestry meeting on Sunday June 27, Ashley and I attended a cheese and wine gathering with the Rev. Dr. John Kater and parishioners of Christ Episcopal Church in Winchester VA. John Kater also took us out to eat at the longest continuously run Inn in the United States, the Wayside Inn, where John D. Rockefeller, Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Paul Newman, and other famous people have stayed.



- On June 29, we visited Thomas Jefferson's home in Monticello, which I spoke about in my July 11<sup>th</sup> sermon on Salome and the Beheading of John the Baptist (Pentecost 7 Year B) here: <https://deforestlondon.wordpress.com/2021/07/12/salome-and-the-trees-of-monticello/>
- On June 30, Ashley and I stayed a night at a hotel in Virginia Beach, where we enjoyed some cool dips in the Atlantic Ocean. (While swimming in the ocean for about an hour in the morning, I saw a fin pass by a few yards away from me. It turned out to be the fin of a sting ray. Although they are not aggressive fish, I decided it was time to stop swimming for the day.) Last time we were in Virginia Beach (summer 2017), we had visited Galilee Episcopal Church.



- On July 1, we met our new Yorkshire Terrier puppies Seabury and Gubbio who greeted us at Ashley's parent's house on the Eastern Shore of Virginia (in Melfa VA). Seabury and Gubbio were born on November 14, 2020, the Feast Day of the Consecration of the Episcopal Church's first bishop: Samuel Seabury. Gubbio is named after the Wolf of Gubbio who was tamed by St. Francis of Assisi. Read about St. Francis and Gubbio here: <https://deforestlondon.wordpress.com/2021/04/27/the-wolfs-shepherd/>



- On Sunday July 4, I worshipped at St. James Episcopal Church in Accomac VA, where I met the rector Fr. Philip Bjornberg, who attended Fuller Theological Seminary, where I earned my Master's in Theology. Fr. Phil also serves as the rector of the historic St. George's Episcopal Church in Pungoteague, one of the oldest Protestant churches in the United States. I recorded a short video about St. George's church here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7lorjejFFCk>
- On Friday July 9, Ashley and I drove from Eastern Shore VA to the airport in Norfolk VA with Seabury and Gubbio in tow. We then flew from Norfolk VA to Denver CO with Seabury and Gubbio in the cabin with us. We then flew from Denver to Eureka, where Pam and Paul Gossard picked up all four of us.
- I was excited to learn that Fr. Shag's paintings of the Twelve Apostles were finally all installed in Lewis Hall on the Feast Day of Sts. Peter and Paul (June 29), thanks to John Patton, Royal McCarthy, and Sanford Pyron. In honor of the installation, I published an article on St. Peter titled "St. Peter and the Rooster's Wake-Up Call" in the Times-Standard on July 10: <https://www.times-standard.com/2021/07/10/pastors-corner-st-peter-and-the-roosters-wake-up-call/>



- On Thursday July 15, I attended the Diocesan Commission on Ministry meeting.
- On Sunday July 18<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene the Apostle and had a soft re-opening of the church, when we began "recommending" rather than "requiring" masks. Our special summer guest was Catholic Woman Priest the Rev. Nancy Corran (wife of Pastor Rus Kostis of the First Presbyterian Church of Eureka). After our morning worship services, we offered our first in-person Rector's Forum in

the chancel, which was also live-streamed here (now with over 100 views): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5CgkGi260mw>. The previous Rector's Forum with Dr. Alexander John Shaia (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmNm204ao9c>) now has almost 200 views. The first Rector's Forum with Dr. Tripp Fuller has over 1,000 views on Facebook and I hope to edit it and upload it to YouTube soon.

- On July 19<sup>th</sup>, I learned the exciting and encouraging news that my new book *The Cloud of Unknowing, Distilled* ranked as the #1 New Release in "Mystical Christian Theology."



- On July 21, Ashley and I enjoyed Happy Hour with Bishop Megan and her husband Philip Traquair on zoom.
- On July 23, Ashley and I had the privilege of hosting Bishop Megan at the Transfiguration House, where she met Seabury and Gubbio and enjoyed a meal made of mostly local and literally homegrown food. Ashley made a fennel carrot cabbage slaw with shrimp lo mein, followed by Transfiguration plum oatmeal crisp with Transfiguration pear sauce, washed down with Eureka Chocolate Liqueur.
- On Saturday July 24<sup>th</sup>, the feast day of Thomas à Kempis, Christ Church hosted a deanery-wide Confirmation service, which included two Baptisms (Robin Cardona, Nicole Petersen-Log), 8 Confirmations (Robin, Nicole, Destiny Preston, Steve Preston, Karen Price for Christ Church, Marie Brady from St. Alban's Arcata, and Kamille Dibelka from St. Barnabas Mt. Shasta), and one Reception (Thomas Arnall). For the first time since March 2020, we had over 80 people in the church for this glorious service, which you can view here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ObKCGjvs6mg>

