

## Rector's Report February 2023 (submitted Feb 26)

- On January 22, I preached on the Episcopal Church's full inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community as the Rev. Jeri Gray-Reneberg and other Christ Church Eureka participants participated in the Day of Non-Judgement in Ferndale in response to the cancellation of a drag show fundraiser. <https://deforestlondon.wordpress.com/2023/01/24/casting-wide-the-net/>
- On January 26, I recorded the Rector's Forum with Mark Scandrette, author of *The Ninefold Path of Jesus: Hidden Wisdom of the Beatitudes*, who preached on the Beatitudes on Sunday January 9. The Rector's Forum premiered on February 5:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AcaalEy6Pr4>



- On January 28, several parishioners received bogus emails from someone claiming to be me. I sent a mass email to the congregation asking them to please ignore, delete, or mark the emails as spam. My email account had not been hacked. Someone was mis-using my name and attaching it to a new email address. The only authentic emails you will receive from me will come from [daniel.london@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.london@gmail.com) (or very occasionally [eureka.rector@gmail.com](mailto:eureka.rector@gmail.com)). So, although my name might be in the sender box, please always check the email address itself. See mass email here:  
<https://mailchi.mp/a9349f7c3d5d/christ-church-eureka-email-update-june-27-11568218?e=b27ff821f4>
- On Thursday February 2, the Sacred Ground Circle met in person at Christ Church for session seven, in which we discussed sundown towns and the selective access to the Melting Pot and the American Dream in the 1830s to the 1960s
- On Sunday February 5, we met in Lewis Hall for our first in-person Parish Annual Meeting since 2020. You can read the Rector's Annual Report here:  
<https://deforestlondon.wordpress.com/2023/02/07/the-way-is-the-foundation/>
- On February 9, Steven Preston and I gave a tour of the church to the diocesan Missioner for communications Alan Rellafor, the Missioner for Disaster Resilience Mark Dibelka, and Executive Staff Support member Maria Ramirez. Soon after concluding our tour and taking pictures by the signed, I received a phone call from Megan Shewmaker, who informed me of the passing of Fr. David Shewmaker. I then prayed with the family, administered Last Rites, and anointed Fr. David's body, which was covered with a Navajo rainbow blanket,

which instantly reminded me of the 'rainbow body' attained by enlightened contemplatives, the subject of the most popular Rector's Forum:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CyFxW7BqXvM>



- On Sunday February 12, Times-Standard published an article I wrote on the Bible and Homosexuality as a My Word article: <https://www.times-standard.com/2023/02/12/my-word-long-arc-bends-toward-church-inclusion/>
- On Thursday February 16, I participated in an online workshop on Mary Magdalene led by Dr. Kayleen Asbo, hosted by Trinity Cathedral in Sacramento. There were about 35 participants, but David Lochtie and I were the only male participants.
- On Thursday evening February 16, I participated in session eight of Sacred Ground online. In this session, we discussed the White Working Class and divisions in present-day white America.
- On Friday February 17, clergy and spouses of the deanery gathered at Mother Lesley's home for a Clericus dinner. Unfortunately, Mother Geri Cunningham tested positive for COVID soon after the dinner, but no one else seemed to have contracted the virus.
- On Saturday February 18, I joined a gathering of Associates of the Transfiguration on zoom to discuss John O'Donohue's book *Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom*. The discussion was led by Mother Nancy Streufert, who felt inspired to study the book after participating in the Spiritual Friendship retreat I led last month.
- From February 19 to 21, Ashley and I went on Valentine's Getaway in Geyserville CA. We enjoyed delicious wine and food with friends at the Francis Ford Coppola winery and Williamson Wines in Healdsburg. We also visited Not of this World Icons, a Russian Orthodox bookstore in Santa Rosa, where I purchased an icon of St. Brigid. On the last day of our trip, we visited the Isis Oasis Sanctuary in Geyserville, which is a retreat center dedicated to the divine feminine: <http://isisoasissanctuary.org/>



- On February 21, Ashley and I drove back in time to participate in the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner and the final Labyrinth Presentation by Kathyne DeLorme
- On Ash Wednesday (Feb 22), Mother Lesley and I took turns presiding at our 12 PM and 6 PM services. We decided not to offer Ashes-to-go this year, which was wise considering the cold weather.
- The Seasonal Journal created by Grace and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Colorado Springs CO included a sermon I preached several years ago in their Lent / Easter 2023 issue, an issue that also includes a sermon by the Most Rev. Michael Curry. You can learn more about the Seasonal Journal here: <https://www.gssepiscopal.org/seasonal-journal>
- On Thursday February 23, I walked with the dogs over the church to take photos of the campus covered in snow, since Eureka has not received snow cover like that since 1989.



- On Saturday February 25, Bishop Megan presided at the Memorial Service for our beloved Associate Priest Fr. David Shewmaker. The service was live-streamed and can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGNjon4urlk>