

Rector's Report

05/16/2024

Friends, this time around, I'm going to try a bulleted format for all of the things to report on as there is more than a smidge. So, here we go!

- **Sundays this Past Month:** We're up to our fifth baptism since the start of the year, and I couldn't be happier. Folks seem delighted with St. Christopher's and the way worship has been, so it seems we're doing well on that front. I hope that, despite my being gone and that being... different, we can use the summer as a period of intentional rest and proceed to iterate on the successes and learnings of this last year when I get back. Our lowest Sunday since about Lent was on Mother's Day which was still over 120.
- **Summer Liturgy:** I've just completed with Ann Vikstrom our leaflet template for the summer. Things for each service will largely remain the same as we enter the long green season of ordinary time. 8AM and 11AM will largely keep the same structure and Eucharistic prayers. One notable difference I'm excited about is asking parishioners to write the prayers of the people, the first rendition of this being offered on Sunday at the 8AM and 11AM services by Marilyn Huebel. I'm hoping to receive a second set of prayers that will run at the beginning of the back half of my paternity through the first couple of weeks of my return so I have time to dragoon another prayer writer. I'll keep our next prayer writer a surprise until I get her written prayers.

Wiggle Worship will also largely look the same, you can read more about my plan below.

- **Paternity Plan (PP):** The plan is becoming more and more fleshed out as service structure has been set up and we're getting folks slotted into position to lead.
- **(PP) Supply Priests and Warden of the Week:** Mark and Emily will be primary points of contact for issues that arise that I would normally take care of. Concerning Sundays, we have confirmed that Tommy Rogers and Suzi Holding, both great priests, will be largely taking charge of Sundays. I still need to fill 3, but that work is underway.

Of note, based on conversation with supply clergy, we have increased our budget for supply clergy for a 3-service Sunday to \$450 from the diocesan minimum of \$300. We do a lot on a given Sunday which is often more varied than what many other Episcopal parishes do, and thus, I think this increase makes sense.

I'm currently working on customaries (the fancy Episcopal term for "Manual on how to Run a St. C.'s Sunday") which will be available for any supply we hire.

- **(PP) Wiggle Worship Plan of Attack:** I've begun using Desmond Tutu's *Storybook Bible* as a basis for our lessons, reading the appropriate story out of the book. I have created a lesson plan, modified collects, adapted Gospel readings, and begun a rota for every Sunday I'll be gone so

that things can be as clear as possible for Wiggle Worship leaders. These leaders will work with supply clergy to make Wiggle Worship happen wonderfully.

I intend to buy 13 more copies of this book and have them at the entrance to the church so that households can look at the stories in their pews as the teacher for the day tells the story and leads discussion with the kiddos.

- **(PP) Welcomers:** This is a place where I could use your help, you lovely vestry member you. Each Sunday, I would like there to be a person assigned to welcome new comers or to simply say hi to someone they've never met before. I'd like there to be such a person for the 9:30AM and the 11AM services, as the 8AM is pretty organically suited to welcoming folks. The welcome would also be asked to announce any major pieces at the announcement which, given our cadence will slow down somewhat for the summer, should not be as long as I make it sometimes.
- **Oops All Interns:** Forgive me, I've been yearning for Cap'n Crunch. Soooooo we have an intern. I won't regale you with the full story here, but starting in September, I anticipate Denise Dillinger, a student at Bexley-Seabury, will join us for a two year internship. I got to be buddies with Denise at the College for Congregational Development (priest camp) at the same time I got the call from St. Christopher's. I couldn't be happier and I think she'll be a great fit.
- **It's the Final Countdown:** That baby is on his way and so are my parents and in-laws. I'm pretty hopeful my deeply Scottish mother-in-law Karen will be here for a Sunday. The church has been incredibly supportive and I have felt so loved.

I keep telling Mark Schneider that as we get into the summer and I think about the next year, I'm ready to kick butt and take names... literally and get them plugged into Breeze, but that's not the point. I don't know what the next three months are going to look like with a newborn, but I couldn't be more excited for this kid AND for what I believe will be a great period for the church as you all guide it in my absence.

Surprising hopefully no-one, I love every blasted one of you. Every single person at St. Christopher's is making the world better. To quote Tutu, "each time we choose good, we add to the human treasury of goodness" and I am so glad for how St. C.'s adds to that treasury daily.