

COMBINED COMMISSION REPORTS – APRIL 2023

RECTOR, SENIOR WARDEN, JUNIOR WARDEN

Commission: Rector – Father Joe Hudson

GOOD SHEPHERD VENICE RECTOR REPORT - As a church, our Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) continues to increase. According to church growth theory, this growth is transitioning us from a Pastoral size church to a Program size church. We are experiencing a lot of positive energy and excitement when we gather. However, our growth will invariably bring with it change, which may lead us to shift in some of what we focus on and how we do things. We are now moving out of the “In Season” time, and into our summer rhythm of life. During this time, we usually have a little more freedom to breathe deeper as some of our program’s end. We move from two to one weekly Sunday service and add two monthly casual Saturday evening services. Yes, things are slowing down. But at the same time things are getting ready to ramp up! Soon we will have construction crews all over the place, forcing us to shuffle around our workspaces and maybe adjust how we go about our work and ministry at times. Below I have detailed some of the activities of my ministry this past month: Regular monthly activities included:

- Centering Prayer group – 4 meetings
- Parishioner visits in their home – 3 visits
- Venice Deanery meeting
- Restoration/revisioning -3 PMT meetings Meeting to review FEMA form
- . PRT meeting
- . Meeting with Church Insurance representative
- Two meetings with church clergy
- One Fellowship Flock meeting
- Acolyte training meeting
- Parish Care meeting

Apart from these, and other regular activities, I also:

- Spent an afternoon with the women from the Women’s Retreat at DaySpring for conversation and Eucharist.
- Met with the Spiritual Formation Survey Taskforce to discuss the results from the recent survey.
- Attended casual cocktails and conversation which was graciously hosted by our Sr. Warden in honor of Fr. Bob and Margi Miller.

- Met with instrumentalists for initial planning of the Summer evening services.
- Attended the Habitat for Humanity mission trip in Tuscaloosa Alabama April 23 – 29.
- Met with Libby to summarize thoughts on the Spiritual Formation survey and discuss parish Spiritual Formation going forward.
- Final meeting with premarital couple, wedding rehearsal and wedding at Holy Spirit Episcopal Church.
- I attended the Christian Women's Fellowship Couples Luncheon.
- Attended the diocesan Vocational Information Evening at DaySpring with Libby as she is in the initial phases of diaconal discernment. Another note close to my heart is that my son Tim was also in attendance from his home parish.

Commission: Senior Warden – Christine Neal

The Lenten Retreat, organized and presented by John Riherd, Nancy Fees and Fr. Joe, was a wonderful opportunity of preparation for the meaning and significance of Holy Week beginning with Palm Sunday and ending with Resurrection Sunday. There has been tremendous positive feedback around Holy Week services; a clear indicator of appreciation of the efforts of many to bring meaning to each of us, whether you attended the retreat or not. PMT/PRT – the Project Management Team continues to meet weekly and the Project Revisioning Team meets on a monthly basis. In both cases, much activity takes place in between meetings to facilitate our forward progress with regular updates to the Vestry to support your fiduciary responsibilities in these major works. It shouldn't be much longer before we are able to communicate action plan and timeline updates for restoration, beginning with the roof replacement.

Thanks to all of you for being key communicators who reassure others that this is a complex project which involves many moving parts and requires patience...we will be better for it in the long run. Fr. Joe, who as our spiritual guide for this project, keeps in the forefront where God is leading us. On a personal note, I am trying to develop the discipline to focus on finding peace and stillness so that God may bring me into harmony with His purposes. This is not easy for me to do on my own; that is why I find the Centering Prayer group that meets on Wednesday afternoons to be so helpful. Clearing my cluttered mind is challenging...sometimes it wanders the entire designated 20 minutes, but I'm learning not to berate myself and to begin again. Other times I see the glimpses of serenity...how wonderful! Now to continue the practice... daily! With God's help, I will.

Commission: Jr. Warden – Don McKelvy

Two parishioners signed up to help with the Building and Grounds Commission (Memorial Garden) during our Ministry Fair. Both names and their contact information were forwarded to Bob Clark.

Waste Management delivered our new trash dumpster and removed our old one on April 4, 2023. Kurtz Plumbing repaired a urinal in the men's restroom on April 11, 2023.

Our old stove was disconnected and removed by Junk King on April 10, 2023. They also removed four pews which were not being used. Our new stove (stainless steel, 2 doors, 6 burners with grill) was delivered on April 17, 2023. Barton Propane detected a leak in our propane system (outside) and will make the necessary repairs and connect our new stove.

The gutter/downspout by our front entrance was not functioning and caused rain water to overflow to the walkway. Superior Home Services dismantled, cleaned, and repaired the unit on April 21, 2023.

Bob Clark and Duane Ruppert repaired a pipe on our irrigation system in the Memorial Garden on May 1, 2023. We have found two more diseased slash pine trees on our property. One in the Memorial Garden and one in our side yard (NE corner), just off the end of our parking area. We will get estimates from Simply Trees for their removal.

Sally Mock, Stephanie Kitt, Barbara Johnson, Melissa Wall, and Dottie Eastman cleaned out our last storeroom (used by our tech team in the back of the Nave). They retained some items for future receptions and English Teas which Melissa Wall would like to continue after our Church has been restored. Thank you, ladies! Thanks to all for your help in maintaining our building and grounds!