

BC Monthly Reports April 2020

VICAR'S REPORT – Bill Fulton

April 6, 2020

Clerk for our meeting

We'll need to have a volunteer to take minutes at our Zoom meeting this Wednesday. Please consider whether you would be willing to do this.

Changes due to Coronavirus shutdown

As you know, we've cancelled all our regular services and since March 15 we've livestreamed our services on Facebook. We've followed the Bishop's instructions carefully so that we have only a small handful of people for each service on Sunday and we're keeping appropriate social distance. The building is closed and Linda is working from home. So we're doing our best to do our part to keep the Coronavirus from spreading.

Worship during Coronavirus season

We're using two iPhones and an iPad connected with the Switcher Studio app so that we can have multiple camera angles. We're using two remote microphones connected wirelessly, and every week we try to improve our quality. Guy Fulton is our cameraman/producer. As you can imagine, I've spent considerable time learning how to manage this new technology.

Clergy participation

I've been grateful for Fr. Craig's participation in our livestreamed Eucharists. Because he's been active at St. Bede's and St. Nicholas churches, he's invited their congregations to join our livestream Eucharists and I think this has been good for everybody. In addition, the Rev. Joseph Hickey-Tiernan, the new interim Vicar of St. Bede's, is also joining us for a couple of services. Deacon Bill has been gracious and adaptable with all the changes.

Future livestreaming capacity

I think the livestreaming has allowed us to reach more people and to include people who otherwise might not come to church. It's as if we're creating a parallel online congregation, or maybe we're widening our usual congregation. I think that after the shutdown ends, we should continue to livestream our regular services. This will require some extra equipment (remote camera, mixing board, etc.) and some creative thinking.

Telephone Tree

From what I can tell, the telephone tree is working well and everyone in the parish is getting a weekly phone call. My thanks to all our callers and team leaders, and to Penny who is coordinating all the information and sending it to me in time for Sunday Prayers of the People.

Stewardship

I've sent out two emails reminding our parishioners that they can send their pledges either by snail mail or by using the online giving page on our website. The Bishop has been very proactive in finding ways to help parishes during this time.

Communications

Because I can't see people on Sunday or visit them in person, I've been sending more "From the Vicar" emails. I've also livestreamed Evening Prayer on Wednesdays as a substitute for our usual Wednesday Eucharist and program. I've had a virtual coffee hour the last two Sundays with about 20 people attending, and I've begun a virtual Bible study on Zoom as well.

Commissions during Coronavirus season

I think it will be some time before social restrictions are lifted. I think most of our commissions are stalled out

waiting for things to resume (except pastoral care, which is continuing), but you might want to think of any ways you can continue the work of your commission by phone or online.

Ken Stephens, end of life

I was sad to say goodbye to Ken Stephens but I was glad to be with him and his family a couple of hours before he died and anoint him with oil and say prayers at the time of death. The memorial service for Ken will have to be held later in the year when the shutdown is over.

Photo Directory

The Life Touch company, which was scheduled to come May 12-13, has cancelled their photo session until after the shutdown.

Preaching Excellence Program postponed

The Preaching Excellence Program in Maryland scheduled for June 2-5 has been postponed until January of 2021.

PEOPLE'S WARDEN AND PASTORAL CARE – Penny Whitney

No report.

BISHOP'S WARDEN – David Wilkinson

No report.

FINANCE – Jim Foley

The board of governors for the Diocese has voted to apply for a Payroll Protection Plan loan/grant authorized by congress as part of the COVID-19 relief for small businesses and non-profits. This afternoon I attended a webinar on the details of the process. As a mission, we are considered part of the diocese, so we supplied them our payroll information for last year to be included in the loan. The loan is for up to a maximum of 2.5 times the monthly payroll of the church, including benefits. Once the loan is granted, it must be spent in 8 weeks. If 75% of it is spent on payroll, the loan is then considered a grant and forgiven. If not, it is a loan with a 2 year term at 1% interest. Since this is a group effort of the Diocese, they are setting up a system to administer the funds as reimbursement after proof of payroll spend is provided. Any amount over the 75% that is available, can be used for paying the interest portion of our mortgage payments and/or utilities.

There is a question whether there will be enough funds available for all of the businesses applying, and it may require additional action by congress before the funds are available for us. But the folks on the webinar recommended as a formality the BC votes to approve participating in this loan/grant, even though the board of the Diocese has already approved doing it for missions. The advantage to doing this, is it will allow us to continue paying our organists and nursery attendants as if they were doing their normal jobs with the subsidy, and make up for any loss of revenue due to the move to virtual as opposed to live services, at little to no risk. To further assist with facilitating virtual contributions, we have set up the ability to make contributions via text. Our text contribution number is **(833) 720-0545**. I've attached a pdf of the directions we can share with the congregation, and should post the number on our website.

See everyone (virtually) on Wednesday!

Thanks,
Jim

NEW FACILITIES – John Stockwell

No report.

OUTREACH – Blaine Morgan

No report.

ENVIRONMENT – Peter Stockwell

No report.

PARISH LIFE – Kristen Robuck

No Report.

COMMUNICATIONS – Chelsea Reeder

No report.

WELCOMING –

No report.

FAITH FORMATION – Bill Thaete

No report.