

**St. Antony of Egypt Episcopal Church
Silverdale, WA 98383**

**BC Monthly Reports
October 2022**

INTERIM VICAR'S REPORT - Craig Vocelka

October 6, 2022

Dear Ones,

Transitions can be tough times and I must say as I reflect on the past year that I have been with you has had many ups and downs.

It has been wonderful to see the numbers joining for our Eucharistic celebrations increase over the past year. It has been great to see some new faces joining us!

There seemed to be an air of exhilaration when I first started and an energy that felt as if my time here would be very short. In all honesty, I thought I would never come to the end of my Letter of Agreement (12/31) and that by now your new vicar would be settled in place. Perhaps that is what you too felt, and it helps explain the perceived slowness in moving on my part.

I must be honest with you. I find it concerning that nothing has been done on the playground as one example of my perception of slowness in the actions of the congregation. You did a great job of raising the money to fund this much needed project and in July decided to move ahead and now we find ourselves three months later and nothing has been done.

I am not being critical; I fully understand that all of you have lives outside of the church and that you are volunteers in your role on the B.C. and that during this time of transition the role of the B.C. is very different and more demanding. I only bring my concerns to you as fodder for thought as we continue in this transition time and look forward not knowing how long it will be before the next vicar is called.

Having sat in your seats before I was ordained, i.e., being on a B.C. and a Vestry in two different congregations during transitions, the one thing I realized, and keep in mind as a priest, is the you, we, are the Church – it is God's Church in which we, all the people not just the priest, who are entrusted with this place, this congregation known as St. Antony of Egypt Episcopal Church. I remind myself and you of the words we pray after communion, *...send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses...*

I don't believe any of us expected to be where we are today. I certainly didn't expect to take a full-time job right after I retired from the University, many of you were on the B.C. with time left in your terms when Fr. Bill announced his retirement, and David W. certainly didn't plan on getting sick (and as I am writing this, we receive his email this morning...). And as we all know, life sometimes throws us curve balls and we need to respond, to alter the plans we may have made. Let us always remember that we are not alone in facing these challenging tasks.

I have been giving our situation a great deal of prayer and thought. I believe one of the points that might be influencing us is that we might be asking the wrong question. I have asked, *what will it take to get things back to the way they were before the beginning of the pandemic?* Perhaps the better question is, *what will the Church, what will St. Antony's look like in light of all the changes we have experienced?*

I know that our God is with us as we continue through these transitions. And while no one has a crystal ball to show us what St. A's or the Diocese will look like in 6 or 12 months; my faith allows me to trust that all will work out and, as difficult as it may seem at times, it will all be good.

My prayer is that St. Antony's will fully open itself to the Holy Spirit. I pray that each person will contribute in anyway and every way they possibly can. I pray that all will fully realize the great gift that St. Antony's is and not only want to but will find ways to share what you have discovered and love with others in the community.

With prayers and blessings,



BISHOP'S WARDEN – David Wilkinson

No report.

PEOPLE'S WARDEN– Dave Peterson

We will be starting our Stewardship program soon.

COMMUNICATIONS – Dee Perreira

No report.

FACILITIES – Dave Peterson

We have had several work parties this summer, the one this last Saturday seemed especially effective. Thank you to all who participated in any way. We still have items to do, I think David Sorrell will call for another work day within a month.

FAITH FORMATION – Julie Sherwin (Youth)

I am sending the final materials and budget breakdown to Jim to get funds released and start work. I already sent the information to order the playset, but hi have not checked with Jim on if it was done or if I need to do it and get reimbursed.

FAITH FORMAION – Esther Osborne (Adult)

No report.

FINANCE – Jim Foley

Still not good. We continue to bleed cash due to not meeting collection estimates from past performance. See you Sunday.

Go Mariners!

Thanks,
Jim

OUTREACH – Loretta McGinley

Fall Food Drive will be 6 - 20 November. Father Craig will follow up with Lori Maxim, executive director at Fishline, to coordinate her speaking during services at an Outreach Sunday this month. Food donations we collect could be split between Fishline and CK Food Bank. There is exploration of a possible collaborative outreach project with New Fellowship next year.

RRO provided an update on the refugee, Abdul, we supported several months ago. He's employed at Amazon in tech. and is appreciative of the help we provided.

Since the last BC meeting, outreach donations were approved for the Seafarer's Mission (\$300), to the ERD in support of Ukraine (\$300) and \$150 from outreach funds to the St. A's coffee fund to support continued purchase of more expensive coffee from Coffee Oasis. Monthly \$100 Walmart gifts cards continue to be sent to Kitsap Community Resources in support of their Kinship Family program.

The Salvation Army is looking for 2-3 volunteers to help prepare food at their center in Bremerton from 2:30-5:30 the last Saturday of each month. I'll request information be sent to the congregation in hopes of recruiting a group of 5-6 people who can commit to helping out.

PARISH LIFE – Bishop's Committee

No report.

STEWARDSHIP – David Wilkinson

No report.

WELCOMING – Emily Nickerson

Welcoming We are planning to set a time to finish up the photo part of our project. If anyone wants a photo in the directory and has not already gotten a picture to Peter or Carmen we are down to the deadline. Then Peter will begin the formatting of the book. I am planning to help him, as much as I can (I know nothing about this stuff and am so thankful Peter does) will coordinate with Peter and Carmen and report back our progress.

Deacon Bill Thaete

No report.

Profile Committee Report – Marty Whitaker

No report.