

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

**BC Monthly Reports
April 2023**

INTERIM VICAR'S REPORT - Craig Vocelka

April 12, 2023

Looking back, I found Lent, Holy Week, and Easter to be very meaningful this year. I feel the Lenten Journey reinforcing the theme of Being Led By the Spirit was particularly timely at this point in the transition journey of St. Antony's. Holy Week was truly that – a week full of holy times and liturgies. The Triduum liturgy, in my reflection, went well and was meaningful for those who participated. It was wonderful to see the number attending increase from last year. Despite the weather, our celebration of the Resurrection was joyful and wonderful. We were able to pull off the Easter Egg hunt and from what I could see the children had a fun time and it seems the youth group had fun hiding the eggs. I want to thank everyone who helped in making these past weeks meaningful, prayerful, and truly holy.

Looking forward, this will be my last BC meeting with you. It has been true blessing to have had the opportunity to serve in the role as interim vicar at St. Antony's. It is my understanding that search committee should have received the names of those interested in the serving as your next vicar by now, so you are into the home stretch of this transition process. My prayer for you is that you continue to be open to the Holy Spirit, that you continue to allow yourselves to be guided in prayer as you prepare to make the call.

As I have often said, take to heart the often repeated phrase in Holy Scripture, Be Not Afraid! This next chapter in the life of St. Antony's holds nothing but possibilities. Do not sell yourself short, you can do so much. You have been gifted with this beautiful property and building that needs to be used as a way for the community at large to know what St. Antony's is all about; how we live out our baptismal promise to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves.

I know God has great hope for St. Antony's and that God will be with you as you continue to live into the Gospel message. It has been an honor, a privilege, and a blessing to have been with you these past 18 months and I look forward to the next few weeks.

With love and prayers,



BISHOP'S WARDEN – Loretta McGinley

It's been a busy month settling into BC roles, taking care of church business and planning for coming months. There was collective church effort to host a beautiful memorial reception for Olivia Staler, Holly headed up fruitful declutter work at church, both services enjoyed a Palm Sunday potluck brunch, a team is working on developing maintenance plans for the church building and grounds and there's been forward movement in setting up our new playset. The selection committee has begun their work to recommend our future vicar, as we sadly prepare to bid farewell to Fr. Craig.

Unfortunately, there was a theft of garden equipment from the barn, and a quick partial reimbursement from our church insurance and generous donations from church members. A primary focus in the coming months will be ensuring we maintain pastoral support until we hire a new priest. There needs to be additional discussion/planning regarding church facility use.

PEOPLE'S WARDEN– Holly Foley

Peoples Warden/Pastoral Care/Welcoming

Several goals have been set prior to welcoming new vicar. One is to have some of the spaces organized and storage properly used. March 13/20/27 were days were the following spaces were worked on:

1. Mechanical closet- Holly, Loretta, Esther and Dave P. worked on and kitchen closets as well.
2. Godly play room/choir storage: Holly and Loretta put Christmas pageant treasures in closet and went through some boxes and found new homes for books etc. I provided a set of plastic drawers and bin for storage and easy access to paper products used in bathrooms. They are now located in the family restroom.
3. Office – Holly and Linda worked on emptying boxes, file cabinets and upper cabinets to organize and make more useful (still need to recycle computer and shred older financial data in notebooks). One drawer of materials was sent to Fr. Fulton to sort and keep his personal items. Hoping to get the last boxes of books from classroom and mechanical closet into the bookshelves in the Vicars office (they are mostly empty and Fr. Craig thought that a great idea).

A few members of the parish have agreed to join me in a planning meeting to organize Pastoral care. In the past there was a list of tasks and people to contact for help and services. I would like to create a new one with their help. I was waiting for after holy week to have meeting. Maggie, Marge and Carolyn S have said yes, and I will be sending invitations to a few more persons soon.

COMMUNICATIONS – Dee Perreira

No report.

FACILITIES – Vacant

No report.

FAITH FORMATION – Julie Sherwin (Youth)

We are getting the playset up, but need to schedule and announce a work party for the rest of the installation. It takes more than 2 people.

Godly play:

The kids of St Antony's were very engaged in Godly Play Lessons over Lent culminating with designing wooden Easter eggs (2 Sundays ago) and then making palm crosses on Palm Sunday (guest teacher and palm cross expert: Carrie Rivers) – Kristen

Adolescent/teen:

The high school youth met on March 23rd to discuss future activities including filling eggs and executing the Easter egg hunt. This year Spring Break coincided with Holy Week, so many were on vacation, but an intrepid group of Tyler, Nick, and Fr Craig filled eggs on Good Friday before the Liturgy. Thank you to Fr Craig, Linda, Tyler, and Carrie Rivers for providing candy and Easter ink stamps. Weather on Easter was sloppy, so we defaulted to Plan B and had an indoor hunt this year. With so much happening in April we decided not to try another Youth Takeover Sunday on the 30th, but wondered if the 5th Sunday was cast in concrete? Would a different Sunday be possible? (The next 5th Sunday is in the middle of the summer, and the following one isn't until October 29th.)

The middle school youth didn't meet in March due to school conferences, but we hope to meet April 19th or 25th. Middle schoolers enjoyed hiding eggs, even though we couldn't use their favorite outdoor spots! All our youth enjoyed the Youth Takeover Sunday in February, and would like to do another in the future. ``Marj Zantek

FAITH FORMATION – Esther Osborne (Adult)

Hallelujah! The Lord is Risen--and our 9 a.m. Bible class will resume this Sunday with the concluding chapter of Sabbath as Resistance. We will focus on the 10th commandment: "Thou shall not covet---" How can Sabbath help us to navigate in an economic system built on coveting? Join us as we struggle with a paradox.

FINANCE – Jim Foley

First month in the red, but not by nearly as much as we were budgeted to be. Still in the positive YTD by \$14,490.41 when we were projected to be \$6,768.53 above breakeven through March. Quarterly federal and state payroll taxes have been filed online and paid.

OUTREACH – Tim van As

No report.

PARISH LIFE – Bishop's Committee

No report.

PASTORAL CARE – Holly Foley

Thanks to all who were involved with the Celebration of Life for our dear Olivia on March 25. The tables and flowers were organized by Loretta, the remembrance table and greeting room for the Little Angels set up by Tovi, were all appreciated. The congregation provided enough food for the family to take home and do coffee hour the next day. Thank you to Fr. Scott for a lovely service.

We had a successful all church Palm Sunday Potluck. Thank you to Loretta for the lovely flowers and table setting, Dave P. for moving tables into and back away for us to sit at. Big thanks to all the members who brought such a lovely array of foods and I think this should be an annual event!

Holy week was amazing, whether you participated in one, or all the services it was a blessing. Capped off by Easter services and a joyful indoor egg hunt while we nibbled on the amazing spread by Jane and Carrie. Thank you Tyler, Chelsea, Marge and the youth for a flexible egg hunt.

STEWARDSHIP – Loretta McGinley

No report.

WELCOMING – Holly Foley

No report.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE – Tyler Reynolds

I have nothing to report for the meeting other than just to touch on the possibility of a Youth event like a movie night or some fun activity outside of the Church doors.

I'll also have a brief report of the Easter egg hunt.

Deacon Bill Thaete

No report.

SEARCH COMMITTEE LIASON – Sarah Rogers

Greetings BC!

The Search Committee has been hard at work meeting weekly to prepare for the onslaught of work we are about to receive. We must move quickly since applicant's careers, homes and families are all waiting for their next call. While a final recommendation will not come for several months, we are very busy as we move toward first and second interviews, site visits, tours etc with each potential candidate. Thankfully we have been given a healthy number of candidates to consider, but that only makes more work for us. We must also be careful to listen to God and take time to prayerfully discern each step. The Diocese has laid out no less than 11 compartmentalized steps we need to complete for each candidate.

Our committee is working well together with different voices and points of view all coming together to represent our entire congregation with the aid of the Profile.

We have just received the vetted names from the Diocese and are well under way. While we cannot see the future or predict God's plan, we would like to believe we would submit a name to the BC by the end of the summer to have our new Vicar in place by the start of Advent.

In anticipation of domestic travel to visit and interview applicants we ask that the BC has cash on hand from the Search and Sabbatical Fund to pay for travel expenses to include but not limited to airfare, car rental, hotel and food for two people for each candidate we need to visit.

I also ask does the church/BC have a Zoom account I can access so that we can hold first interviews via Zoom? We need a full paid version because we expect interviews to exceed the 40 minute free version. If we do not have an account I can access, then I will purchase one, and submit the charge for reimbursement as we will need this ASAP.

Our full Search Committee includes:

Cheryl Wright Co-Chair

Sarah Rogers Co-Chair

Mark Westin

Marj Zantek

David Wedeven

Barbara Thaete

Rick Zapp

Respectfully,

Sarah Rogers