

**St. Antony of Egypt Episcopal Church  
Silverdale, WA 98303**

**Bishop's Committee Monthly Reports  
February 2025**

**Vicar's Report:** Mother Hillary

**Worship and Spiritual Life:** This Epiphany season has been a full one! We worshipped with Rite I for our joint service prior to the annual meeting before returning to our familiar 8am Rite I and 10:15am Rite II rhythm. Worship continues to be a source of comfort and inspiration. At St. Antony's, we will have a "year of prayer" in 2025! This means that I will use sermons, workshops, and other special events to teach different ways of prayer throughout the year. We had about 15 people gather for a lovely prayer potluck this past Wednesday. After a truly yummy dinner, we spent time learning about how to pray using Anglican rosaries. I also plan to format our Lent Soup Suppers around this theme as well. I also had the joy of leading the contemplative retreat the diocese put on for young adults this past weekend.

**Pastoral Care:** I am thankful for the Pastoral Care team's compassionate and effective work! I continue to visit people as the need arises, and I am slowly training and sending out lay Eucharistic visitors to bring communion to those who are not able to attend in person.

**Community Relationships:** Our projects with the West Sound Beekeepers Association, the Kitsap Conservation District (for the rain garden), and Garden Visions (for the Memorial Garden) are still in progress. We also continue to host concerts and recitals and would like to expand that offering both as a revenue stream and more importantly as a service to the community.

**Parish Life:** Since we last gathered for the Annual meeting, we have enjoyed our first annual (at least) Poe-e-TEA party! I found this event to be deeply moving and incredibly fun. Thank you so much to all who put it on. Upcoming, we have our Shrove Tuesday pancake supper prior to Ash Wednesday. Our lay led initiatives continue to thrive-- in parish live events, in spiritual formation, and beyond! Thank you all.

**Administration:** Holly and I purchased some new blinds for the Godly Play room and Linda's office and now know what blinds to purchase for the gathering room. They just need to be mounted. Linda had a cataract surgery this week and adjusted her schedule to compensate. Projects on my mind for this quarter, administratively, are to update the phones and perhaps to begin work on the website by forming a small subcommittee.

Thank you all! May God continue to bless our community with energy and joy in each other.

**Bishop's Warden:** Holly Foley

The following meetings and events took place in January and February:

- Jan 22- Landscape committee meeting 10 am
- Jan 22- VBS team meeting to pick final two choices for Curriculum and Date
- Jan 25- George Baxter's memorial service
- Feb 1 - Spaghetti dinner with youth group
- Feb 2- Clean up altar and BPOD
- Feb 5- VBS curriculum looked over one curriculum before snow storm with Chelsea and Kristin
- Feb 6- Memorial Garden meeting cancelled due to snow
- Feb 8 - Po-e-Tea party with tea and poetry attended by about 30 persons
- Feb 9- Visit 8 am service at Grace Church on Bainbridge as "secret shopper" as requested.
- Feb 11- Rescheduled memorial garden meeting
- Feb 11- Pastoral care meeting
- Feb 12 - Shopping with M. Hillary for shades in windows
- Feb 16 - Do announcements for M. Hillary at 10:15 service
- Feb 19 - Landscape Committee meeting
- Feb 19- Potluck and Prayer beads
- Feb 20 - Exec Meeting to plan for BC meeting

**People's Warden:** Marj Zantek

Melanie Reeder, Kristen Foley, Esther Osborn and I have potential drafts and ideas for updating our welcome brochure, and we'd love to review our efforts with you and brainstorm at your convenience. Welcoming was a big part of our College for Congregational Development project a while back. Good call! Updates are very much needed.

**Buildings and Grounds:** Dave Peterson

Nothing to Report

**Communications:** Sarah Rogers

As a new member to the BC I am just getting my bearings, but have big plans. I need to meet with the Welcoming Committee to create a plan for permanent magnetic name tags. I also need to put out a request to the congregation to create a small committee to do some research into a touch screen communication board for the narthex. Lastly I need help compiling the contacts for everyone who has keys and uses the church to create a better communication system of the church calendar.

**Faith Formation:** Sarah Bishop Dolbec

Took 'inventory' of formation programs. Introduced myself to all formation leaders, offering support, inviting feedback, and inquiring about future goals. Impressed at the number of regularly scheduled programs (Adult Bible Study, Contemplative Prayer, Episcopal 101, Godly Play, Lent/Advent Soup Suppers, Summer Book Study, Teen Bible Study, Vacation Bible School, and Youth Group)!

Reviewed St. A's website for descriptions of Formation programs. Found much out-of-date info and conflicting details that do not reflect current offerings; confused by information categories overall.

Promoted Faith Formation in March newsletter, highlighting 4 ongoing programs with a special plea for more Godly Play teachers and helpers. Plan to make a regular column to highlight different programs each month.

Kristen Fabry has made major improvements to Godly Play. She brightened the classroom space thus making it more inviting and interesting for kids to enjoy, increased the quantity and quality of lessons, ran a successful fundraising campaign of kid-custom decorated bookmarks, established a scheduling system, and shared upcoming training opportunities. Teachers still find it difficult to adapt lessons to a single class with children of multiple ages. Will seek insight from trainers. Classroom is problematic: the space is also an equipment storage area, vestment closet, music studio/library, pass-through to church office, and conference room, all of which impacts children's ability to focus and teacher's ability to maintain control.

VBS committee grew in members over the winter. We purchased a VBS program to review and evaluate which curriculum works best for our church and volunteers. Plan to determine curriculum theme in late February and announce to congregation in early March. Made list of roles/responsibilities to include in announcement and call for volunteers.

Teen Bible Study, currently exploring the book of Acts, was clarified by leader Michael Wentworth as a "seminar" type class. Have seen it referred to by Mother Hillary as "Teen Seminar" which has a more mature, academic connotation. Should we start calling it that to encourage attendance?

Esther Osborne has Adult Bible Study well in hand. She presides over an enthusiastic bunch, incorporating historical context and personal experiences, while also making sure everyone has space to reflect and share without straying too far from the subject. She also sends annotated references and Bible passages in advance to participants. She chooses texts and topics thoughtfully considering cost and accessibility, noting that support is available to offset book expense. She plans a Lenten-focused text for March.

Faith Formation surveying will continue throughout March with Contemplative Prayer, Episcopal 101, and Youth Group.

**Outreach:** Tim van As

Nothing to Report

**Parish Life Co-chair:** Kathy Gero

Nothing to Report

**Parish Life Co-chair:** Chelsea Reeder

Nothing to Report

**Pastoral Care:** Kathy Avery

The Pastoral Care Commission members include Gail Ferguson, Holly Foley, Loretta McGinley, Peggy Roberts, Maggie Scott, Janet Steller, Marj Zantek, Mother Hillary Kimsey, Karrie Wiley and Kathy Avery.

The commission continues to support several congregation members with visits, phone contact, cards, prayers, meals, requests for altar flowers after church services, and transportation to church events. A freezer pantry was started in December 2024, inviting the congregation to participate, to help provide temporary meals for those who were unable to cook. Frozen meals are in the church's freezer and Kathy Avery's freezer.

Mother Hillary trained 5 new Lay Eucharist Visitors in January and submitted background checks. These included Marj Zantek, Jason Kimes, Kathy Gero, Kathy Avery and Holly Hoxen. Holly Hoxen had been licensed at her former diocese. Loretta McGinley and Penny Whitney are currently licensed by the diocese to be Lay Eucharist Visitors. Mother Hillary will continue to administer Eucharist to the very sick.

The Po-e-TEA, which was held on the afternoon of February 8<sup>th</sup>, was attended by 27 women and men. Many expressed their enjoyment and that they would like to see the event repeated, maybe annually.

Chelsea Reeder from the Parish Life Commission attended the February meeting of Pastoral Care. She was given the list of activities that Pastoral Care had sponsored for the past year as well as a list of activities that women had suggested at the first Women's Social in June 2024. It is hoped that Parish Life will continue with Women's Socials as well as their other activities.

**Treasurer, Ex Officio:** Jim Foley

We're off to a good start on the year! Donations above prior January, and the rolling 12 month income versus expense is back to being over break even. See you Sunday!

**Welcoming:** Melanie Reeder

We are excited that our congregation continues to grow! Thank you all for being so welcoming and making those visiting or joining our church feel welcome. We have made visitor name tags that are on the table in the narthex so if you see someone with a name tag with a green visitor ribbon, please greet them and introduce yourselves. We're also getting ready to publish our list for coffee hour, so if you are interested, there is a sign-up sheet also located in the narthex. We have also reviewed our welcome brochure located in the pews and determined we need an upgrade. If you have any ideas, please share them with Melanie or Chelsea Reeder or any Bishops Committee members.