

Senior Warden Report- 2021
Jill Rosier, Senior Warden
1/13/21

2020! A year that we will not quickly forget. We started the year off like any other, watching Pastor Mike settling into his role as our Rector. We had just enjoyed celebrating our first Christmas with him and his family. In late January I was blessed to join my mother on a 2-week pilgrimage to the Holy Land. I returned on February 12, with murmur of this new coronavirus infection getting louder. Little did I know at that time how much my recent trip would completely feel like the trip of a lifetime, so grateful to have traveled to this special part of the world with my mom and to return home healthy. I do hope that when travel can resume, we can plan a pilgrimage trip from CGS!

CGS was humming along and then came March 13th (a Friday!) when we learned that closings were being advised. We had a planned Vestry retreat the next day which quickly became our first of many Zoom Vestry meetings determining that we needed to close the church building and move to Zoom services. Pastor Mike worked so hard with the assistance of staff and parishioners to set this up. Yes, the first few weeks were glitchy, we couldn't always hear, but in these times we were still able to join together to worship. We have continued with Zoom services that although nothing close to being together in our beautiful church do give us the opportunity to stay connected. I want to give a huge thanks to Pastor Mike and Pastor Greg since he joined us in July. They have worked tirelessly to improve the technology giving us Zoom services, adult education programs, prayer and reflection times. We have had Zoom meals and services, the creativity and commitment to allow us to keep going has been unwavering. A big thanks to Wayne Blair, he has been present almost every Sunday making sure the sound aspect of the Zoom services is working. Many thanks to Pastor Mike's family. His wife Hope stepped in to direct hand bell choir for a time and work tirelessly to help with the Zoom services and making them available online for parishioners. Aidan and Miriam continue to bring great energy to our parish family too!

As this unprecedented time continued with the Stay-at-Home order the Vestry was meeting weekly to stay abreast of all the developments and plan events as best we could. The Vestry called each member of our parish in the spring, and then in late summer and sent Christmas cards in December. All of these, steps to help us stay connected and to learn of any parishioners that might need any sort of support. I want to say an immense thanks to all members of the Vestry and other volunteers who helped with these phone calls and Christmas cards. As well your dedication to CGS with more frequent meetings, challenging issues – thank you.

One incredible event of this year was that we were able to hire a curate, and on July 1st Greg Baker joined us as curate. (July 1st has become a day of good fortune for CGS, 2 years in a row!)

Greg jumped in with 2 feet, despite the challenge of not being able to meet people in person he was committed from the beginning to get to know as many of us as possible. He has developed a number of enriching programs for us. I know Pastor Mike is grateful to have a colleague and they have developed a great working relationship.

Thank you to all of the parishioners for continuing to support Church of the Good Shepherd actively volunteering in the many roles available and necessary, especially in this past year, and continuing your financial support of CGS.

Thank you to Mary O'Reilly and Nancy Madiera who without hesitation made adjustments and with their incredible talent and creativity have kept the Children's and Youth's education program vibrant and fulfilling. Many thanks to all of the Sunday School teachers and Youth advisors assisting them.

In 2020 Brett had planned a wonderful concert series on select Sunday afternoons. Two very enjoyable concerts took place before the pandemic forced us to close. Many thanks to Brett for creating music for us every week despite all the challenges. Brett has worked so hard during this upside-down time to ensure music is part of our services which is such an important part of our worship. He has worked tirelessly creating prerecorded pieces, we have had guest musicians from our parish, and it is my hope this can continue, many thanks Brett.

There are two people that are unsung heroes here at CGS. Each year I witness them work harder and harder, and 2020 was no exception. They have been flexible and accommodating as they have kept on top of all things CGS, moving from the office to work at home and back and forth and back and forth! Laurie was instrumental in us receiving a PPP loan last Spring. Since we do not see them on Sunday mornings it is easy to overlook all of the hard work that happens. My simple thanks once again is not nearly enough in recognizing Laurie and Abbie's dedication to this parish and their jobs.

As I complete many years of serving as Junior and then Senior Warden, I am so grateful to be a part of this special place. Thank you for your support of me, thank you for your kind words, thank you for your confidence in me, thank you for coming to me with your concerns and trusting me with your worries. All of this has allowed me to grow as an individual in ways I could not have otherwise. I hope that I have served CGS well.