

Clergy-in-Charge Report
October 13, 2022

August and September were memorable and busy months for Holy Cross as we began worshipping in our new space at JCo, and worked out the details of how we would complete our move and start making use of the space. After some trial and error, I was able to settle on office hours and a working day schedule distributed between the JCo site and the new clergy office at St. Andrew's Encinitas. The congregation worked to make the new space a comfortable home, finishing up the moving process and building and installing storage cabinets for altar guild items and vestments, and installing outdoor sheds for storing other items. During this time, I also oversaw the donation of around 50 pew chairs from our off-site storage to Good Shepherd Hemet, which freed up a great deal of our own storage space along with helping out a parish in need. Our plan is to continue consolidating our storage needs and reducing our footprint to 2 units by the end of the year, which will reduce our costs significantly. Many members of our congregation have contributed to this ongoing work and their efforts are greatly appreciated.

During August we solicited sign-ups for volunteers for our various worship ministries, including readers, altar servers, greeters, ushers, and set-up team. The congregational response to this was significant, and we are currently working on coordinating the various ministries to create a rotation ensuring that our needs are met each Sunday. It has been encouraging to see the level of willingness to help out increasing among the congregation, and there seems to be a growing understanding that our success in this new location will depend on the efforts of everyone working together.

September was another busy month with a congregational forum on the 4th that focused on hearing ideas for a community outreach event that will be held at a later date. On September 18th, we celebrated our patronal feast of Holy Cross Day, which we advertised as "Homecoming Sunday" as an appeal to our members that we had not seen in a while. We had great attendance that Sunday (which included a catered breakfast) and our Sunday attendance appears to be holding fairly steady since then. We have seen several visitors, a few of them who have become longer-term guests and we hope they will remain with us for some time.

While my primary focus in August and September has been getting things settled in the new space and coordinating our major events, I have also worked on re-establishing some of our formation ministries and continuing with pastoral care. Our Zoom Bible Study group started meeting on Thursday afternoons. Pastoral care has focused largely on phone calls, along with accompanying our Nigerian refugee in a meeting with his attorney at the beginning of August. Now that my schedule has stabilized somewhat, I am looking forward to the opportunity to expand pastoral ministry by meeting regularly with a lay pastoral care team, and having more time to make in-person visits.

Our liturgy during September incorporated elements of the Season of Creation, and as part of this season I also participated in planning for and leading an interfaith prayer service that was held September 21st at La Jolla Shores Park. The event was very successful and I hope to continue working with the interfaith group to plan more events in the future. In our worship at Holy Cross, we continued to incorporate more musical elements into the liturgy, particularly thanks to the talents of our volunteer guitarist and worship leader Joey Aszterbaum. We also welcomed Michael, our new A/V intern, to the staff and are grateful for his technical expertise to help in our streaming services.

Finally, in September I was able to enjoy a week of vacation time along with participating in the annual diocesan clergy retreat in Temecula. Both of these were enjoyable and valuable Sabbath times that helped me to re-energize for the many tasks ahead at Holy Cross.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Brian Petersen