

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

The theme of my report last year was “2019: A Year of Transition.” In that report I emphasized how, with the capital campaign, our church had started to transition from goal-setting, to taking the steps necessary to live into our goals of being a welcoming diverse community seeking to reveal Christ’s reconciling love in our community, nation, and world. Then came 2020. I think it goes without saying that 2020 tested us all on many levels. It seemed as if the Covid-19 pandemic joined forces with historic and systemic racism and other threats to social justice that have always lingered just below the surface in an effort to force us as a church, city, national, and global community to confront issues we would have been happy to continue sweeping under the proverbial rug. I am happy to report that the tumult ushered in by 2020 did not cause Holy Communion to abandon its mission and vision. Instead, in the midst of the turmoil, your lay and ordained leaders chose to make Holy Communion a place of respite by adhering closely to our goals of Welcome, Diversity and Community.

Welcome: Although we have all missed gathering in our building, thanks to the brilliance, flexibility, and creativity of our clergy, the shift to online services allowed us to welcome large numbers of people (from far flung places) to our Sunday services in 2020. I can personally attest that during the past year, my sister, Dawn, who lives in New York, has happily tuned in regularly to attend church at Holy Communion. The Vestry is looking at ways to build on our virtual services to welcome those beyond our state (and nation) after we are able to return to in-person worship. The use of parking lot services allowed those of us yearning for the Eucharist to receive communion and fellowship in a safe way. We also successfully used technology to safely continue the Forum, Godly Play and Youth Group.

Diversity: We started 2020 co-hosting a screening of the film, “Rigged” with Kol Rinah Congregation at Holy Communion in February (it seems like a lifetime ago)! The hope was to use the film and the subsequent discussion (featuring voting rights attorney Denise Lieberman) as a jumping off point for initiatives around voting and social justice issues. Thanks to the pandemic, those plans were shelved but will be revisited and revised in 2021. What was not shelved was this congregation’s commitment to diversity. That commitment was reflected in the diverse music incorporated into Sunday worship, the participation of each of you and your families in our Sunday morning virtual services, and virtual programs like the Metro Trans Umbrella Group Trans 101 “Language of Love” training seminar in August that was broadcasted from Holy Communion via Zoom.

Community: 2020 saw a church community determined to remain cohesive despite the many challenges that came our way. Through ministries like Garden Ministry, Laundry Love, Trinity Food Pantry, Contemplatives, the Guild, and others, this community found ways to come together, to be there spiritually, emotionally, and financially, for those within and outside of our walls.

Throughout 2020, I personally found great solace in being able to call Holy Communion my church home. I look forward with great anticipation to all that the Spirit and the people of Holy Communion will offer in 2021.