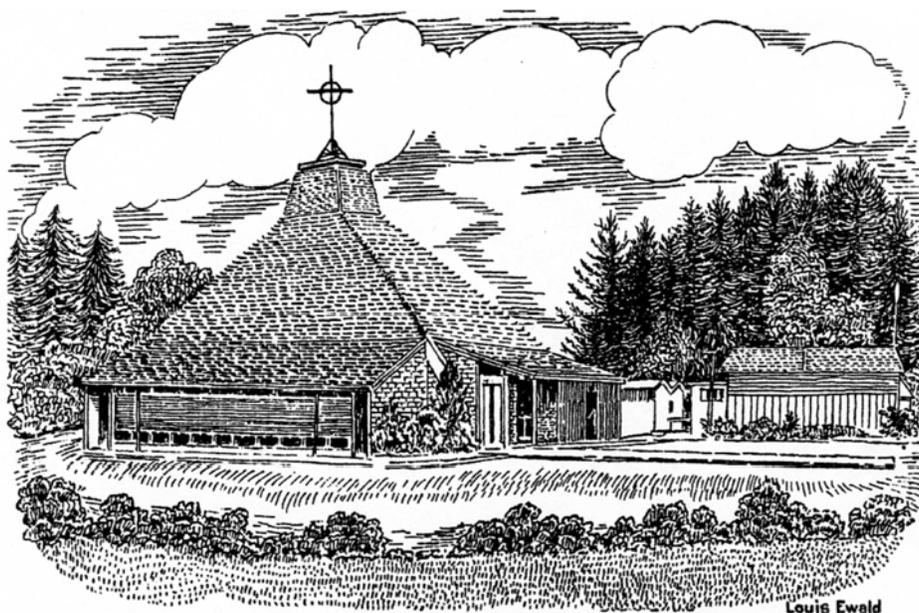


*Faith's reason for being is to know Christ and to make Christ known*

## **ANNUAL MEETING & REPORT**

**January 27<sup>st</sup> 2019**



**Faith Episcopal Church**  
20295 Little Valley Road  
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# **AGENDA**

**Opening Prayer**

**Approval of Minutes of the 2018 meeting**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Vote to Accept 2019 Budget**

**Second Vote on new Bylaws**

**Election of Nominees for the Bishop's Committee**

**Election of Alternate Delegates to the 2019 Diocesan Convention**

**New Business**

**Adjourn**

Other documents Included in this Report (pgs. 12-16):

Reports on the work of:

The Altar Guild

The Office-to-Nursery Renovation

Fundraising Efforts

Junior Warden's Report

Senior Warden's Report

Vicar's Report

## Minutes for the Annual Meeting of January 2018

The Rev. Craig Vocelka opened the annual meeting with prayer at 11:00 AM. There were 29 members of the congregation present, and also present was Rev. Canon Dr. Marda Steedman-Sanborn, Canon to the Ordinary

### Motion 1

Annamarie Lavieri made a motion to approve last year's minutes, Louise Kernaghan seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Treasurer's Report was presented to the congregation by Louise Kernaghan.

### Motion 2

Brenda Toth made a motion to accept the proposed budget, Diane Foster seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

### Senior Warden's Report

Linda Skinner expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve Faith Church. She stressed the abundance of good leadership within the congregation and the willingness to embrace change. She reminded us of the many things we do to help our community at large such as provide parking for Central Market during holidays, lend space to non-profit organizations, host luncheons for clergy, allow Fishline to use our facility to store Christmas presents for the needy, share our facility with New Life, and more. Linda emphasized that Faith is a warm and loving congregation that welcomes everyone.

### Junior Warden's Report

Ed Skinner will meet with the new Bishop's Committee to discuss facility repairs and future needs. The parish hall needs one half of its roof replaced. That is the most pressing need.

### Vicar's Report

Rev. Craig Vocelka thanked Linda and Ed Skinner for their service. He also thanked numerous parishioners for their help preparing the church and parish hall for occupancy. Nominations for the Bishop's Committee were announced. There were two opening and two nominations—Brenda Toth and Debra Hurd. By acclamation they were accepted for service on the BC. As alternates from last year, Louise and Bob Kernaghan became our new delegates to the Diocesan Convention. Debra and Neil Hurd are alternates. Updated bylaws were proposed. One congregational meeting needs to be scheduled between now and next year's annual meeting to approve changes, and then the new bylaws need to be ratified at Faith's 2019 Annual Meeting. Vicar Craig introduced Rev. Canon Dr. Marda Steedman-Sanborn, Canon to the Ordinary

### Rev. Dr. Marda Steedman-Sanborn, Canon to the Ordinary

Rev. Marda explained her position within the diocese. She announced that Fr. Craig is being called to medical missions and that he'll be absent for months as a time. Because of this, he will not be able to continue his ministry as vicar to Faith Church. Bishop Rickel evaluated the strengths and needs of Faith's congregation and made a decision to appoint Rev. Laura Murray as Faith's new vicar. She will start on Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. The new Senior Warden will need to complete a Letter of Agreement with Laura and send it to the Bishop before the 31<sup>st</sup> of March. It needs to be sent to Rev. Marda who brings it to Bishop Rickel for his signature. For now, our new vicar will work on a part time, 40%, basis. Rev. Marda will help us to determine salary based on the diocese's clergy guidelines. We need two Sundays of supply priests to cover the gap between when Craig leaves and Laura starts; perhaps Laura will supply. If that transpires, the bishop may approve backdating her start date. Vicar Laura must attend the College of Congregational Development classes, and Faith is responsible for that cost. There is a possibility of an increase in Rev. Laura's schedule via grant if our congregation continues to grow.

Rev. Marda pledged one half the cost of the new roof for the parish hall in the form of a grant from the diocese.

### Additional acknowledgements

Several people were acknowledged for their work in the parish: Ed and Linda Skinner, our Junior and Senior Wardens for their hard work serving the parish in a multitude of ways. Debra Hurd for organizing the library, George Daniels for setting up our website, the Bishop's Committee members, Louise Kernaghan as Treasurer,

Leslie and Carl Sandberg for cleaning our buildings, Ralph Flewelling for picking up and organizing our bulletins, Brenda Toth and the Altar Guild for their ministry to the Sanctuary and Service, Ralph Flewelling and Bob Kernaghan for serving as acolytes, Connie and Jim for banking, newsletter, and prayer chain, Marcia Christian for her music ministry, and the “Merry Men” for building maintenance.

Faith Church has grow in numbers over the past year. Rev. Craig Vocelka thanked the congregation for a great year.

#### Motion to Adjourn

At 11:25 AM Bob Hodges made a motion to adjourn the 2018 Annual Meeting. Jim Aurand seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Hurd  
Clerk

## Treasurer's Report

The following is a synopsis of the 2018 Financial report:

Our pledge and plate offerings were just a little under \$51,000. Together with rentals, fund raisers, and a few special donations, our income was about \$64,000. Our total operating expenses were about \$68,000. (The budget was \$72,000.) We also spent about \$9000 on capital expenses, including the roof repair, nursery upgrade, and sound system.

In order to make up for the deficit, we withdrew funds from the Diocesan Investment fund, also known as the DIF. This was money set aside and invested by the congregation to be used “for a new building or for maintenance or upgrades to other buildings”. \$20,000 of the total invested was specified for building or renovations; the balance was to be withdrawn as needed. There is currently \$35,000 left in the DIF, \$15,000 targeted for building repairs, etc.

In the 2019 budget, the B.C. has approved an estimate of \$54,000 Pledged income, although to date pledges total about \$48,000. Total income is projected to be \$67,550. Expenses are projected at \$80,300. Although there are a few factors in the increase, a large part is due to the fact that the B.C. has voted to increase, in July, Vicar Laura's hours from .4 (16 hrs. per week) to .5 (20 hrs. per week), time that we all know she has been putting in without compensation. We have also hired an organist. In 2018 although we budgeted for music, we paid no salary for a musician from August through the end of the year. We have added a few categories, including Christian formation and the College of Congregational Development. We hope to increase our income beyond what we budgeted in order to decrease our deficit, as we did last year.

Another piece of information that I want to share is that this year the Diocese has decreased the assessment percentage from 15% of income to 14.5%. Faith has decided to direct that savings toward expenditures on Outreach in our community.

In summary, we did better than we projected in 2018, although we still had a deficit. We are projecting a deficit again for 2019, but we are hopeful that as the congregation becomes more educated in how our money is spent, we will find creative ways that will assist Faith to meet our expenses. And we hope that the pattern of congregational growth we saw in 2018 will continue and contribute to increased income.

Louise Kernaghan

2019 Budget

Vicar at .4 first 6mos, .5 last 6 mos

Ordinary  
Income/Expense

Income

Rentals	\$ 12,000.00
Pledge and Plate Offerings	
Offerings	\$ 54,000.00
Total Pledge and Plate Offerings	
Investments	
Interest	
Total Investments	
Other Types of Income	
Christian Formation (formerly Godly Play)	\$ 500.00
Candle Fund	\$ 50.00
Memorial	
Capital Improvements (formerly Hall Restoration)	
Fund Raisers (formerly Calendars)	\$1,000.00
Discretionary Income	
Misc (formerly Ludden Book sales)	
Total Other Types of Income	

Total  
Income

\$67,550.00

Expense

Clergy Expense	
Discretionary Expenses	\$ 1,200.00
Pension Fund	\$ 5,659.00
Professional Development	\$ 500.00
Vicar's Compensation *	\$31,440.00
Supply Priests	\$ 1,000.00
Total Clergy Expense	
Contract Services	
Accounting	\$ 1,800.00
Total Contract Services	
Facilities and Equipment	
Landscaping	\$ 2,400.00
Equipment	\$ 225.00
Security and Fire Systems	\$ 1,355.00
Building Maintenance	\$ 2,000.00
Public Utilities	\$ 3,096.00
Electric	\$ 3,000.00
Gas	\$ 3,000.00
Property/Liability Insurace	\$ 1,383.00
Total Facilities and Equipment	
Operations	
License/Permit Fees	\$ 100.00

	Promotions (formerly Church calendar expense)	\$ 500.00
	Printing/Copying	\$ 1,500.00
	Telephone(formerly advertising)	\$ 250.00
	Diocesan Assessment	\$ 9,794.75
	Office/General Supplies	\$ 1,000.00
	<b>Total Operations</b>	
	Parish Life	\$ 200.00
	Outreach	
	Outreach (formerly Sharenet)	\$ 337.75
	Fishline	\$ 500.00
	<b>Total Outreach</b>	
	Worship	
	Supplies (eliminate, see below)	
	Altar Guild Supplies (chg to add word supplies)	\$ 500.00
	Flowers	
	License One (music)	\$ 200.00
	<b>Total Worship</b>	
	BC Retreat	\$ 100.00
	Convention	\$ 200.00
	College of Congregational Development	\$ 800.00
	Christian Formation	\$ 500.00
	Staff Expense	
	L&I Quarter Tax	\$ 260.00
	Musician	\$ 5,500.00
	<b>Total Staff Expense</b>	
	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$80,300.50</b>
	<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>\$(12,750.50)</b>
	<b>Other Income/Expense</b>	
	<b>Other Expense</b>	
	<b>Capital Expense</b>	
	Nursery	
	Sound System	
	Equipment/Renovations	
	Capital Improvements (formerly Hall Restoration)	
	<b>Total Capital Expense</b>	
	<b>Total Other Expense</b>	
	<b>Net Other Income</b>	
<b>Net Income</b>		

Note: \* \$27,000 of Vicar's compensation is stipulated as "housing" for tax purposes.

PROPOSED BYLAWS  
FAITH EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
Poulsbo, WA

**INTRODUCTION**

Faith Episcopal Church is a Mission church of the Diocese of Olympia. These bylaws are adopted in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Olympia and are intended to govern the calling and conduct of meetings of the Mission, the election of a Bishop's Committee and the conduct of its affairs and such other matters as might be contained herein. To the extent that these bylaws are inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of the Diocesan Canons, the latter shall prevail and be followed.

**ARTICLE I - MEETINGS OF THE MISSION**

Section 1. At any time between the Annual Meeting of the Diocese of Olympia Diocesan Convention and the last day of February following, after due notice is publicly given at the Divine service on the two Sundays next preceding, there shall be held the Annual Meeting of the Mission for the purpose of nominating qualified persons for the Bishop's Committee, electing lay delegates and alternates to Diocesan Convention and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Section 2. Special meetings of the Mission may be called by the Vicar, or by the Bishop's Committee, if there is no Vicar, and shall be called by the Vicar upon a written request signed by a majority of the Bishop's Committee including one Warden. Notice of any special meeting of the Mission shall be given at two regularly scheduled worship services, including the Sunday next preceding the day appointed for the special meeting. The notice shall state the purpose of the special meeting.

Section 3. Only adult Communicants in Good Standing are eligible to vote at meetings of the Mission.

Section 4. Only adult Communicants in Good Standing who have been members of the Mission for at least one year are eligible to be candidates for membership in the Bishop's Committee or to serve as delegate or alternate to Diocesan Convention.

Section 5. At all meetings of the Mission, the Vicar (or if there is none, a Warden) shall preside, unless the Vicar delegates this responsibility to a Warden. The Bishop's Committee will ensure that a Clerk is provided to act as Clerk of the Meeting.

**ARTICLE II - Bishop's Committee**

Section 1. The Bishop's Committee shall, ideally consist of seven adult members, or six minimally and, when possible, one youth member between the age of 16 and 21 years. Adult members must be Communicants in Good Standing. Except in extraordinary circumstances, and only with the approval of the Vicar or the Wardens if there is no Vicar, members of the same family cannot serve on the Bishop's Committee at the same time.

Section 2. At each Annual Meeting, new adult members shall be elected to be submitted to the Bishop for appointment for three year terms and one youth-member of the Bishop's Committee shall be elected for a one-year term. No member of the Bishop's Committee who is elected to a full three-year term shall be eligible for re-election until two years after the expiration of the term for which that member was elected.

Section 3. A majority of the members of the Bishop's Committee (including at least one warden) shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4. The Vicar shall be an ex-officio member of the Bishop's Committee and when present shall preside at meetings of the Bishop's Committee or of the mission congregation.

The Vicar may delegate this presiding role to the Bishop's (aka the Senior) Warden or another member of the Bishop's Committee. If there is no Vicar, the Bishop's Warden shall preside but may delegate this role to the People's (aka the Junior) Warden or another member of the Bishop's Committee.

Section 5. At or before the first meeting of the Bishop's Committee after the Mission's Annual Meeting, the Vicar shall appoint a member of the committee to serve as Bishop's Warden. At the same meeting, the Bishop's Committee shall elect one of its members to serve as People's Warden. If the Mission is without a Vicar, the Bishop's Committee shall elect both a Bishop's Warden and a People's Warden from its members.

Section 6. At or before the first meeting of the Bishop's Committee after the Mission's Annual Meeting, they shall elect a Clerk, who shall prepare and maintain written minutes of all Bishop's Committee meetings and of all Mission meetings. The Bishop's Committee shall also elect a Treasurer who shall receive and disburse the revenues of the Mission as the Bishop's Committee shall direct. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate account of all receipts and disbursements, rendering an account annually to the Bishop's Committee and at such other times as the Bishop's Committee may direct. The books of both the Clerk and the Treasurer shall always be open to inspection by the Vicar, members of the Bishop's Committee and the Bishop. Neither the Clerk nor the Treasurer need be members of the Bishop's Committee.

Section 7. A member of the Bishop's Committee may be removed if the Bishop gives written notice thereof and sets forth the reason(s) therefor. A member of the Bishop's Committee may resign in writing to the Vicar, or if there is no Vicar, to the Bishop's Warden. A member of the Bishop's Committee may also be removed by the Vicar if that member fails, without sufficient cause, to attend three regular meetings of the Bishop's Committee in a calendar year. A member of the Bishop's Committee may be removed due to physical or mental incapacity if the Vicar determines that such member is unable to serve for such reason. If the Vicar removes a member of the Bishop's Committee, the Vicar shall notify the Bishop of such removal in writing within thirty days. In the event that a member of the Bishop's Committee is unable to serve due to resignation, death, removal or incapacity, the remaining members of the Bishop's Committee shall select another qualified person to fill the vacancy until the next Annual Meeting of the Mission, at which time the congregation shall elect a person to serve any remainder of the term.

Section 8. The Bishop's Committee shall normally meet monthly. Special meetings of the Bishop's Committee may be called by the Vicar or upon written request of no less than three members of the Bishop's Committee including one Warden. Except in circumstances requiring emergency action and with the consent of all members of the Bishop's Committee, no meeting shall be held with less than three days' notice to all members. There shall be no special meeting of the Bishop's Committee unless the Vicar, if there is one, is present.

Section 9. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted at meeting of the Bishop's Committee or of the Mission congregation.

Section 10. The Bishop's Committee shall prepare an annual budget that may be amended by majority vote at the Mission's Annual Meeting. The Mission Treasurer shall report the Mission's actual costs as compared with that budget when asked to do so by the Bishop.

### ARTICLE III

#### Miscellaneous Provisions

Section 1. Annual Report. The Bishop's Committee shall furnish to each annual meeting a full report of its actions and a financial report for the preceding year.

Section 2. Amendment to the Bylaws. These Bylaws may be amended only by the affirmative vote of a majority of the persons present and qualified to vote at an annual parish meeting.

Election of Nominees for 2019 Bishop's Committee & Alternates to  
Convention

**Jean Hart: 1 year term**

Baptized and confirmed a Lutheran in 1953. Became an Episcopalian in 1974. Attracted to Faith as being a new experience as I've never been in a Mission before. I stay because the Faith family is just that: a Family, not a social organization. In my former churches I was a teacher of the Bethel Bible course in two parishes. I also taught confirmation classes, sang in a choir and headed a prayer chain. Everything except be a Vestry member. So, I guess it's my turn to do that. Christ is still counting on me to be an instrument of His Peace.

**Gary James: 3 year term**

Our family has lived in North Kitsap for 30+ years attending several different churches and not finding a home. After doing a bit of theological and historical reading, we decided that the Anglican/Episcopal church best fit our background and how we perceive God's interaction with man. We like Faith because of the location and size, it's close enough to attend when we're able and it's a place where we can interact and serve with like-minded folks. It is a home church.

**George Daniels: 3 year term**

I was raised in an American Baptist home in Southern California. At age 11 I accepted Jesus as my Savior and was baptized. My wife and I settled in Sacramento, CA where we were active members of a small Baptist church. I began attending an Episcopal church in 2006 where I found the services worshipful and focused on putting God at the center of each worship service. Faith Episcopal Church is my church home because of the worshipful experience I have here.

**Diane Foster: 3 year term**

For those of you who are new to our church, I would like to assure you that I have the best interests of the church at heart. Over the years I have served many times on the Bishop's Committee and am honored to represent our congregation at these meetings. Plus, I'm really nosy and I want to know what's going on.

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Nomination of Alternates for Diocesan Convention *to be held November 8-9 at the Lynnwood Convention Center*

**Delegates:** Deb Hurd & Brenda Toth\*

\*please note Neil Hurd has elected not to be a delegate as originally planned.

## Altar Guild

Since moving into our new church space in 2016 the Altar Guild has been busy setting up and equipping the sacristy. And what a blessing to have a permanent space. We had several large celebrations in 2018 including a farewell to Vicar Craig and the installation of Vicar Laura. I feel that the church has begun to settle into a rhythm and I have finally had time to catch my breath. I am excited to move forward now with plans including:

Recruiting and training new members  
Create an Altar Guild Manual for Faith Church  
Inventory altar linens, vestments, vessels etc.  
Make new altar linens, frontal etc.

Brenda Toth, Directress

## Nursery Renovation

Thanks to the hard work of Diane, Fred, Brenda, Jackson, and so many others, we were able to turn the church office into a warm inviting nursery. For under \$1,000.00 we were able to put in carpeting, paint, some toys and comfortable furniture. Jackson painted a beautiful mural; Diane and Brenda did the painting and organizing, and Diane worked to keep the project under budget with paint, carpeting, and finding slightly used furniture. Fred worked hard to install a speaker in the room so people are able to stay connected with the service even when taking care of the little ones. The room has become a nice space for those with children to calm, feed, and change their child while not going too far away from the service. Please take some time to thank all those mentioned in this report as they truly worked hard to make it a special space for our young members.

--Kevin Mace

## Fund Raising

Our first fall market fundraiser was held on November 3. We had 8 vendors all offering wonderful choices to purchase. The church also had a table with many good things to purchase donated by our church members. Leslie Sandberg headed up the lunch menu and bake sale table which did very well. We grossed \$850 with \$180 going to purchase the banner advertising the market. We learned a lot from our first experience and can make improvements for our next one. All in all, I think we did very well.

Diane Foster

## Jr. Warden's Report

2018 brought needed improvements to Faith Episcopal Church. Employing Francisco's Lawn Service has improved our outside appearance. A new roof was put on our parish hall, for which the Diocese contributed approximately \$7,000.00. In August, the Poulsbo Fire Department informed us we needed to bring our fire alarm system in the parish hall up to code immediately. Thankfully, the Diocese stepped up again and paid the \$19,000.00+ cost. These additions along with an updated kitchen and newly painted parish hall interior, thanks to the generous donation Murray Quality Painting, enable us to engage further in important outreach goals. We now have a sound system in the sanctuary and the new nursery thanks to the joint effort of Unity and Faith. Recently, I purchased two devices to alert us to power failures and water incursion affecting both sump pumps and the furnace in the sanctuary. In the parking lot we have new LED tower lights and a sign to prevent derelict vehicles from abandonment in our parking lot. Last week problems with base board heating on the second floor of the parish hall have been solved. We have heat!

Future projects are numerous. Faith, along with the diocese, conducted an official inspection of both our buildings and grounds, and we are slowly moving ahead to fix and maintain remaining items on the punch-list. There are many opportunities for helping hands!

I thank all members who pitched in to help make Faith better and safer for us all.

Fred Pomeranz, Jr. Warden

## Sr. Warden's Report

What a year it's been! Vicar Craig Vocelka began Faith's 2018 year with a surprise...he felt called to minister in health-related fields rather than as a parish priest. Craig guided Faith from January of 2016 through January of 2018 and he helped us transition into this space in Poulsbo that we call Faith. He shepherded us through change—never an easy task—and prepared us for moving forward with our new vicar, Laura Murray. With Vicar Laura's help, we progressed from zero office hours during the week to hours on three days beside Sundays. It's made a positive difference to us and to our presence in the community. It seems we are busy all the time, and to me, there is a spirit of hospitality and generosity in the air. Our vicar has encouraged us, listened to us, and helped us to transition through the difficult times in our lives. Thank you, Vicar Laura! Having increased office hours has directly influenced the number of people and groups that meet at Faith. Those groups provide a direct relationship with the greater Poulsbo and North Kitsap Community. Here's a rundown of ongoing activities from this past year. Groups meeting regularly are:

- Unity of North Kitsap rents space from us, worships in Faith's sanctuary and has study groups and meditations in Harrold Hall
- Order of Eastern Star meets monthly. By the way, they contributed a significant amount of money towards our new roof.
- Gambler's Anonymous meet on Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons
- Voices of Hope (Al-Anon speaker's series) meet monthly
- Show Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) meets monthly
- Vicar Laura's Bible Study meets weekly
- Faith's Reunion Group meets weekly
- Support Group for Family & Friends of Autistic Children meets monthly starting in February 2019

And there were many diverse non-liturgical activities:

- Bishop's Committee Retreat
- Shove Tuesday
- Two picnics, one for Faith members and family and one for our larger Faith Community
- Rupert Kettle's Summer Youth Music Camp
- National Tai Chi Day
- Fishline's Christmas Child Program, which dominated Harrold Hall the month of December
- Soup Suppers and an Advent book club
- Saint Mark's Choristers performed at our Mother's Day Service
- BC's attendance at the Diocesan Strength-To-Strength Conference
- Our first Faith Fall Market Fund Raiser

We had many beautiful liturgical services and I know that Laura will mention them in her report. I personally was touched by the beautiful Christmas Eve service this year. I would be remiss if I did not mention Vicar Laura's installation ceremony presided by Bishop Rickel on April 25<sup>th</sup>. It was beautiful and inspiring to see our church filled, hear our beautiful organ played, and listen to voices singing hymns and songs of praise. I cannot wait to see what 2019 brings.

As we think of the future, I know that you, along with me pray that we are blessed with new growth. I believe that all of us would like to offer Laura a full-time position—I think it is one necessary component to our growth. It helps Faith to *not* become a church vexed by revolving doors of spiritual leadership. I am, and I know all of us are, appreciative of how Laura has strengthened the already strong bonds in our church family. Let's face it, she works *way* beyond the .4 time we pay her. And although career commitments such as pastoring, teaching, and other like occupations and callings often lend themselves to hours and activities beyond a paycheck, the reality is that families depend on the income that each contributor brings to our households. So please, invite your friends and neighbors to share in the beauty that is Faith. Finally, thank you all for supporting me as your Senior Warden. I am blessed beyond words for the help, patience, and wisdom that each of you shared with me this past year. It was and is appreciated more than you could know.

Debra Hurd  
Senior Warden

### Vicar's Report

I have never been one of those people who credit God with finding a parking place, or a good seat at an event; however, I would have to have my head deep in the sand to not detect the hand of the Divine in what's transpired at Faith in 2018. Oh, what a year we've had!

When I began as Faith's vicar in February, I discovered a church that was empty most of the week. Yes, Eastern Star and SURJ were meeting regularly, as well as a Cursillo reunion group, but there were no 12-step groups meeting at all—a rarity in the Episcopal Church! Faith had just begun conversations with Unity of North Kitsap regarding sharing space, but no formal agreement yet existed. Today, we have so many different groups meeting here, including 12-step groups, that scheduling is sometimes challenging. Unity has proven to be a blessing to our community in many ways. Not only do they contribute financially as tenants, they partner with us in outreach efforts, fellowship opportunities, and generally help keep our facilities safe and attractive. The Order of the Eastern Star has also contributed financially to our church; not only did they give us a sizeable contribution we were able to use toward our new roof, they have promised to pay for a new microwave. Our "Faith Family Fun Day" last summer was a wonderful opportunity for all those who use this facility to get to

know one another and build real community—the importance of these relationships was obvious when we asked the groups to change their normal routines in order to allow Fishline to use the church for its annual toy drive.

The last year has seen changes in our membership as well. The first week I was here, we lost our sister, Sylvia Palmer, followed a few months later by The Rev. Fred Hart and Sally Bloechl. It is always difficult to say farewell to members of our family, especially those who were such a blessing to our community. Others moved away or followed a call to other communities of faith, and we ask God's blessing on them; always more important than where we worship, is that we continue to seek a connection to God. Even as we say goodbye to those with whom we once worshipped, we wholeheartedly welcome our new members. There have been myriad folks who have crossed Faith's threshold this last year, and some have even stayed!

The first Sunday I was at Faith I asked what you dreamed of for the church. Many of you expressed a desire to see the church grow, and grow it has. We have increased our numbers slowly but surely and our recent members have blessed our common lives in ways seen and unseen. The Christmas Eve service in which Clay Clayton as well as the Steinke and Batstone children gave so graciously of themselves, was absolutely beautiful. Having young people in our midst again brings a unique breath of curiosity, hope, and joy to our community. Likewise, the new faces among us bring gifts, connections, and insights we didn't even know we were missing.

Repeatedly in 2018, when a need was detected in our community, we received exactly what was required. This has been the case over and over again from real financial quandaries—like how to pay for a new roof or a fire alarm system-- to the kindness of Murray Paints in charging us only for supplies to paint the parish hall. Through the generosity of the Diocese of Olympia, Central Market, the groups using our building, people like Tony Murray, and even Randy the pest control man who removed our errant bat free of charge, time and again we have been gifted with graciousness in myriad forms. These are surely manifestations of the Holy One – ever generous, ever surprising, and ever constant.

And while it is gratifying to see improvements to our facility, there have been all kinds of things happening behind the scenes that are worth mentioning as well. We have begun creating ministry groups to address the church's growing needs: worship, finance, outreach, Christian formation, buildings & grounds, communications, and fellowship/community life. The opportunities to plug-in at Faith are numerous, and more present themselves regularly. We discovered this last year that Faith's business license had expired and that our Tax ID number was incorrect. So began a long, rigorous journey for our treasurer, Louise Kernaghan, as she navigated the seemingly endless bureaucracies associated with getting us back on track. Louise emerged heroic from her quest and we are once again on sound legal footing. We have begun creating systems for how we function as a community, the most apparent being the adoption of bylaws. While it may not seem to be necessary, as we grow it is important to have a foundation from which we can conduct our work. With a few exceptions, our bylaws derive from Canon 11 of the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Olympia.

In our worship this year, we have tasted all four of the Eucharistic Prayers from the Book of Common Prayer as well as a season of Enriching our Worship. Together we have raised our voices in prayers spoken and chanted; we have been graced with musicians of all stripes, and even managed to survive a season of singing a cappella. Howard Bye Torre, our new organist, has brought joy and music back to our sanctuary – another blessing who arrived just when we needed him most. I will always remember the sweetness of our Easter Vigil service and the 17 faithful who showed up for this most ancient liturgy; the Celebration of New and Mutual Ministry was a thrilling counterpoint with our pews full and the organ in full voice. It would be impossible to list everyone who has contributed to the beauty of our worship, but a few folks have been indispensable this last year: Brenda Toth, Leslie Sandberg, and Diane Foster have been the main crew responsible for our altar each Sunday. Louise Kernaghan bakes our delicious bread each week, and her husband Bob is often the unsung hero of each Sunday's service—the unofficial verger who sets up, turns up, fills up, and whom I will perhaps be able to repay one day with a 7:00 AM Rite I service! Connie Aurand is one of the most gifted pray-ers I have ever

encountered, and her Prayers of the People were a gift to us all this year. And, as long as Jim Aurand is at the front door, I will never have to worry that a person hasn't been greeted with hospitality and enthusiasm. Every reader, every Lay Eucharistic Minister, and every brave soul who raises their voice enables us to enter into the realm of God each Sunday—I am humbled to serve along saints like you.

**I am thankful for you ALL.** And, there are a few who need to be called out by name; those without whom the lessons of this last year might have been missed entirely. I'm aware this is a dangerous path to take, as I will undoubtedly leave someone out and that knowledge fills me with dread, but here goes:

Brenda, Diane, Kevin, & Louise, the 2018 Bishop's Committee, for their patient perseverance toward the good of Faith. Ralph for vacuuming, making coffee, and ensuring all this power doesn't go to my head. Frank for the laughter, George for his patient guidance of all things technical, Connie for hugs, love and support. Jim for pre-church conferences; all those dedicated attendees of the Tuesday Bible Study with whom I learn, laugh, and ponder. Fred Pomeranz who, even in the midst of inspections, bats, failed fire alarms, unlocked doors, sapsuckers, and more, epitomizes willingness, kindness, grace, and most importantly, will laugh with me in the face of almost certain calamity. And of course, Deb, whose unfailing patience and ability to see a different view or notice the sometimes overlooked, teaches me daily even as it enriches my life and the lives of us all.

God bless you all, as you have been a blessing to me.

Vicar Laura