

**Report of
Pastor for Parish Life
The Rev. John H. Brock
May 2021**

May saw, as always, the usual things of Staff Meetings, Pastoral Care Council, and Property meetings. Due to the opening up of the quarantine restrictions, we held a short Home Visitation meeting, to check in with our visitors and see not only how are they doing, but how they have been keeping in contact with the folks they visit. That happened the same day as our Open House, where we showed off the renovations made to our facility over the past fourteen months.

I had a couple of weddings - well, actually, one wedding, and one renewal of vows for a couple who were married last May near the tail end of the Red quarantine period. They wanted to have friends and family present, so we did it all again for them.

I had three funerals during May, and each was different in its own way. The first was out at Fort Indiantown Gap, which I always find to be meaningful. The last was a "simple" service, held at funeral home and then followed by the graveside. It was the second funeral of the month that was unique. One of our members was married to a person of active Jewish faith, and so the Rabbi and I worked together to bring our member to his rest. Rabbi read a couple of scripture passages in Hebrew, I followed with the English. Then he explained the custom of shoveling dirt onto the casket once it is in the grave. Additionally, I learned that a cemetery I have passed so many times that I often don't see it any more is a Jewish cemetery..

A couple of high points for the month, though, were the Affirmation of Baptism for Peter Sheaffer. When we had the service last year, Peter was under quarantine for having been exposed. Fortunately, he did not contract the virus. None the less, he missed out on the opportunity of being received with his classmates, and were able to do that for him and his family.

And on a lighter note, I want to give a special shout out to Kathy Holmes for organizing a Trinity bicycle ride. I had an enjoyable time, getting to know some of our members better, as well as seeing parts of Camp Hill I had never been to before. It was a good evening.

Please continue to stay healthy!

God's peace,

Pastor John Brock