

**Report of
Ministry Director for Parish Life
The Rev. John H. Brock
September, 2017**

From a worship perspective, I presided:

Traditional	4
Contemporary	2
Saturday	3

I preached and presided:

Saturday	1
Thursday	1

I preached:

Saturday	1
Traditional	2
Contemporary	2

I lead one Healing worship, and had two on-call weekends.

I was honored by presiding at a funeral/graveside service:

September 22 Ann Schmidt

Meetings included: Creative Worship; Women of Trinity (final meeting); Council; funeral planning; Architect design; West Shore Conference monthly meeting; pre-marriage counseling; IT/AV; and Property. I also lead one Affirmation of Baptism class, as well as one of the Men's Tuesday Morning Bible Study.

I decided that I personally did not care for the "stock" weekly Prayers of the Church that we receive from Augsburg Fortress, so I have begun writing those prayers for use in worship each week.

We have changed our Membership management software. We are now using a program called Servant Keeper. It is a monthly subscription, cloud base program that will allow staff to access it from anywhere. That will be most helpful when doing home visitations. Special thanks need to go out to office staff Tom Notestine for his work in transferring the data from our old program to the new one. While we are still working out the bugs, I am hopeful that this program will work well for us.

Pastor Horner and I, along with Pastor Edmiston and other staff members, have spent quite a bit of time attending to parishioners who were experiencing medical emergencies. On the plus side, at this point, they all appear to be doing well. However,

collectively, we spent many hours staying with family members, arranging for meals, home and child care, and other means of support.

I also was able to attend the latest Preaching Perspectives, held at the seminary in Gettysburg. There, Pastor Horner and I ran into two Trinity members, Chuck & Bernadette Armstrong, who were also taking part in the discussion.

On a personal note, I did what I could this month to deplete several “use ‘em or lose ‘em” vacation days. First, Marianne & I went to the Fingerlake region of New York. This is relevant inasmuch as one of the places we visited was the childhood of Joseph Smith, Jr, found of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints in Palmyra, NY. After having taught a course dealing with Mormons, it was quite interesting visiting their “sacred ground.” That same trip, we were able to visit the home of Harriet Tubman National Historic Park in Auburn, NY. Harriet settled there after the Civil War. On that same piece of property, she founded a Home for the Elderly. This was quite the interesting experience.

Then, at the end of the month, Marianne & I visited the Maryland coastal waterways. On our way to Cambridge MD, we had lunch with a son of a former Nawakwa director and his spouse. We learned during the meal that the ELCA congregation which the Brenneman’s attend in Wilmington, DE, recently moved to a new location (a local relator did a land swap with them). While they are a smaller congregation than Trinity (worshiping around 200/weekend), many of the things they did in their new building are designs that we have talked about: glass between narthex and nave; separate vestibule; lounge type area; and movable seating, as examples. I took several photos, and will share with any who are interested.

On that same trip to DE/MD, we visited the newly opened Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park. This is a truly moving tribute, not only to Harriet Tubman, but to all the men and women who risked their lives to stand up to one of the world’s most obscene ideas: that one human being could ever own another. If any of you ever get the opportunity to visit this site, it is well worth your time.

As always, I continue to do home and hospital visits, along with attempting to be social and available in the Gathering Space on Sunday mornings, and my office during the week.

God’s peace

Pastor John Brock