

## Pastor's Report for December Church Council Meeting

December 1 – 20, 2021

This is a shorter reporting period because our November Council meeting was held Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>.

- Mount Cross ordained and installed Deacon Cecelia Travick-Jackson on Dec. 12. It was a joyful celebration! Thank you to the many volunteers who helped make the service and reception special. It was an honor to welcome Bishop Brenda Bos to Mount Cross for her first visit. Deacon Cecelia continues to serve at worship on Sunday mornings, attend weekly staff meetings, coordinate Home Communion, and oversee Afternoon Chapel. God bless her and our Senior Adult Ministry.
- Thanks to Carol Browning, an abundance of musical talent at Mount Cross, and a creative Children, Youth and Family Ministry, our Advent/Christmas concert was a big success! "From Heaven Above" on Dec. 19 was well-attended and a delightful way to prepare for Christmas.
- I have been meeting frequently with the CDC Board, or subsets of it, to support their process to form a separate non-profit. The CDC Board is strong under the leadership of Lisa Saner and Patti Stouch. The Board has a positive relationship with the new Director, Amy Vega. I appreciate the good work Wendy McClary is doing as a Liaison from the Council to the CDC Board.
- Our Adult Education programs (one bi-weekly and two weekly bible studies) concluded a good fall season last week. Men's Bible Study will begin again Jan. 6, Women's Bible Study on Jan. 12, and Wednesday Evening Bible Study on Jan. 13. Joe Zimmerly and I continue to share teaching responsibilities for Confirmation. We have a lively and engaged Confirmation class this year. For our last meeting of 2021, we went Christmas caroling to some church members' homes.
- I was happy to get out into the community a little bit more this month. With members of the Peace and Justice Team, I visited the Evening Reporting Center, a program of the Oxnard/Port Hueneme Boys and Girls Club. As an outgrowth of our anti-racism discussions and our reading of *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson, we are exploring ways to support at-risk youth. I also participated in the Hickory House Christmas party and attended an Inter-faith meeting hosted by the Ventura County Interfaith Community. They would like Mount Cross to participate in a program this spring to encourage friendships between people of different faiths. Stay tuned for more information.
- Pastoral care needs are especially high this month. I do all that I can to visit and stay connected with those in crisis, transition, or living with chronic health concerns. I would like to do more.
- Thank you to all who helped decorate the church for Christmas. We put an ad in the *Camarillo Acorn* advertising our Christmas Eve services. They will be at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Only the 5 p.m. service will be livestreamed. Sunday worship on Dec. 26 will be a service of Lessons and Carols, with Holy Communion.

**Thank you, Mount Cross Church Council, for your faithful service this year!  
God bless you and your families with peace and joy as we celebrate Christmas.**