



FAITHWAY – Lent 2022

The Church of the Holy Faith

welcomes all people into an ever-deepening relationship with Jesus Christ our Lord.

We believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Sacraments, and the Authority of Scripture.

We honor our Anglican heritage and praise God with Solemn liturgy, traditional Prayer Book worship, and music to exalt the spirit.

We strive to live as a community with compassion for one another and the world around us.

We worship together in peace to praise and thank God, to transcend division, and to celebrate the mystery of faith.

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Faithful and Friends of Holy Faith,

We had a wonderful Annual Parish Meeting on January 30. While we thanked retiring Vestry members Dan Green, Leslea McCabe, and Charles Rountree for their service and were sad to see them complete their terms, we rejoiced over the election of new Vestry members Mark Everett, Peter Lockyer, and Ruth Rael to join continuing Vestry members Steven Berkshire, Vann Bynum, Charles Chambers, Chris Frenk, Van Swift, Walter Sterling, and myself. This year's officers are Senior Warden Van Swift, Junior Warden Vann Bynum, Treasurer Steven Berkshire, Secretary Charles Rountree (voice but no vote), and me as Presiding Officer. I commend to your review the full compilation of Annual Reports at www.holyfaithchurchsf.org/wp2021/wp-content/uploads/Annual-Report-2021/.pdf or by picking up a hard copy at church.



"What are our gifts that we can share with the larger community?"

As I mentioned in my address at the Annual Parish Meeting, I believe it is an appropriate time for Holy Faith to engage in some strategic planning. I had hoped to start this process before the pandemic began, but it did not happen. I think we need to ask ourselves where is God calling us as a parish. What are our gifts that we can share with the larger community? What are our blind spots that may limit us in effectively proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ? For example, because of the generosity of Holy Faith parishioners and benefactors over the years, the Holy Faith Endowment Fund has grown to around \$10 million. To preserve the fund and allow the endowment to grow, up to a prudent 4% of a rolling three-year-end average of the endowment's value can be drawn, according to the bylaws, for capital expenses or mission & outreach expenditures. In 2021, we spent around \$265,000 of a permissible \$271,000 draw, virtually all on capital expenses and many seen as necessary to meet the effects of the pandemic. This year in 2022, we will be able to draw up to \$305,000 from the endowment for capital expenses and mission & outreach expenditures. The questions I think we have to ask is how much should we spend on ourselves as a parish and how much should we spend outside the parish. I do not have the answers, but I think we

need to approach these questions from a theological as well as a practical perspective. I will be proposing to the new Vestry that these questions be part of a larger strategic planning discussion at the Vestry retreat this spring. After some preliminary discussions by the Vestry, I want a broader discussion as a parish to consider these questions.

Also coming up, as I am in my sixth year as your Rector, according to diocesan policy and the terms of my Letter of Agreement, I am due a three-month sabbatical in addition to vacation time this year. The terms for my sabbatical for rest and study are beginning to take shape. I hope to be away a couple of weeks after Easter to attend our son's graduation from Cambridge University, depending on whether the graduation ceremony will be held and Covid travel restrictions. The bulk of my time away will be in July, August, and September. Using Maine as a base of operation for renewal, I plan to make retreats at three monasteries - the Society of St. John the Evangelist in Cambridge, MA, an Anglican modified Benedictine order also known as the Cowley Fathers; Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, NY, an Episcopal Benedictine community; and St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, MN, a Roman Catholic Benedictine community - to compare and contrast religious practices that I can bring back to deepen the spiritual practices of this parish. Therese and I also hope to make a pilgrimage along the Camino de Santiago de Compostela in Spain in September, as I mentioned in my Christmas Eve sermon.

During my sabbatical, there are plans for clergy coverage. I am pleased to report that the 2022 balanced budget approved by the Vestry includes full-time funding for a third clergy position beginning in July. I have already been in touch with Bishop Hunn for a possible candidate for the position. It is expected that the clergy person would continue in that position into 2023 and beyond, providing continuity as we as a parish prepare as Fr. Jim reaches The Episcopal Church's mandatory retirement age in May 2023. And I look forward to returning to Holy Faith this fall after my sabbatical rested and renewed to serve this parish and its people whom I love.

So, as announced at the Annual Parish Meeting, my charge to the parish this year is this:

- I. That we each trust in God and be faithful to where God is leading.
- II. That we each listen and respond to where and how God is calling us as a committed member of the Holy Faith community.
- III. That we listen and respond as a parish to where and how God is calling Holy Faith to proclaim effectively the Good News of Jesus Christ in this parish, in this city, in this country, and in this world.

Yours faithfully in Christ,

Fr. Robin+





Many thanks to Kathlene Ritch for the photographic reminders of our wonderful 2021 Christmas Celebrations.

IN THIS ISSUE

A Message from the Rector	1
One Person's Pathway to Priesthood	4
Story and Pictures by James Overton	
A Season of Repairs at Holy Faith	5
Story by James Overton	
Pictures by James Vaughan	
Expanding Beyond the Walls of Holy Faith	7
Story by Mark Childers as told to Janet Sanders	
Picture by James Vaughan	
Holy Faithers Have Talent	8
Story by Fr. Jim Gordon	
Pictures by Fr. Jim Gordon, Lora Morton, Janice McAninch and Simon Mostert	
Now Where Was I: A Lenten Reminder	9
Story by Marty Buchsbaum	
Pictures by James Overton	
Taking Ash Wednesday to the Streets	10
Pictures from stock and James Overton	
Library Talk by Kent Grubbs: The Pilgrim's Way	11
Story by Lora Morton	
Pictures by Kent Grubbs	
Clergy, Staff and Vestry Listing	12

ONE PERSON'S PATHWAY TO PRIESTHOOD

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAMES OVERTON



"I was called to God's altar..."

Penni Chambers' pathway to the priesthood began adding up long before she had the "ah, hah!" epiphany that set her course. "The call started a long time ago when (husband) Charles and I were living in Odessa, TX. He was trying to open me up to the fact that there might be a call. Then, God started opening so many doors," Penni said during a recent interview.

Some doors closed in the process, one of them being her own accounting firm in Odessa. That was followed by selling their home which was not even on the market. They saw Santa Fe on the horizon.

Penni, a certified public accountant, and Charles, a real estate appraiser had been part-time Santa Feans for four years before moving in mid 2014. They had longstanding New Mexico connections. Penni had gone to high school in Truth or Consequences followed by two years at New Mexico State University. But they had long been drawn to Santa Fe and to The Church of the Holy Faith. "I felt the call to serve," she said. "I've always been good at listening to God's call, especially when he gets the 2x4 and hits me over the head." But even serving as a crucifer, and acolyte, she knew there was more to her personal journey in faith.

Penni's period of discernment began in 2017. The Episcopal Church affirms four orders of ministry (lay ministry, deacon, priest and bishop) that are mutually discerned based on interdependent work with church leaders before reception for ordination. At Holy Faith, Penni spent her time working with Parishioners Ann Wallace, Rhonda Black, Ruth D'Arcy, Dan Green, Grant McDonald and Tom Barker. "Those six very special people spent about nine months working me through the discernment process. Through them, my call became, 'yes,' I'm being called," she said. "At the time I was not sure if it was the diaconate or the priesthood. Then, I felt called to be a priest."

While her consistent service at Holy Faith helped chart her pathway, Bishop Michael Hunn sent her to St. Bede's Episcopal Church across town after her ordination. Arriving in mid pandemic, Penni found herself in a congregation where the rector would soon be retiring and the clergy staff had dwindled from two to one. "I'm a transitional deacon in a transitional church," she said. "That's been more of a transition than being in the pandemic!"



But the new doors that opened gave her an opportunity to be even more engaged in altar service, serving in an all-Spanish liturgy, doing visitations (including visiting with guests that stop by the church searching for a listening ear, a prayer or help in other ways), offering communion in homes, assisting in church administration, and participating in liturgy committees to plan for Sunday services.

Perhaps one of her most touching moments is being able to give communion weekly to her 91-year-old mother challenged with dementia.

The daily ministry of life in any parish has opened Penni's mind to the future. "I think my 'ah hah!' moment came the moment when I realized I may be called to parish life. I had not ruled it out. I just had not seen it," she said. "I think being a deacon has opened my options. When it's time, God will let me know."

Like most churches, St. Bede's has had to accommodate the safety realities of pandemic, how its congregation struggles socially in how to worship together. "They're hungry. They are hungry for social contact," she said. "Everyone has masks on so it's hard to get to know people. But the congregation is really open to do what we need to keep people safe."

Through it all, Penni has enjoyed an abundance of support from her family. Husband Charles, a member of the vestry at Holy Faith who briefly attended seminary in earlier days, is engaged when she talks about her day. "It's great having someone at home who's so interested and so involved with the church. We've put our life in God's hands."

Their extended family has been equally embracing. Between the two of them, they have three daughters. One of Charles' daughters is an Episcopal priest married to an Episcopal priest. And Penni's daughter in Dallas saw early on where her mother was headed. "Being a priest is all in the family," she said. "My daughter sensed my calling maybe before I did," she said. "I was trying to tell God I was too busy, but now she's her mom's biggest fan."

A SEASON OF REPAIRS AT HOLY FAITH: IF I HAD A HAMMER....

STORY BY JAMES OVERTON AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAMES VAUGHAN



During endless pandemic while most sheltered in place The Church of the Holy Faith repaired in place. "That's what we did last year mostly," said Dan Green. "We worked on projects that were long overdue as well as some new ones."

Dan, the vestry's outgoing junior warden, acknowledged how over time, problems known and unknown reveal themselves. That combined with the realities of maintaining a building more than 140 years old adds a certain urgency to the process.

To date, Holy Faith has replaced the roof on Conkey House (which should last another 20 years), and installation of new carpet is on the near horizon. A campus-wide security system is now in place. It covers every door, hallway, even the parking lot and back alley. "It's hard to believe in this day and time the church has never had a security system," Dan said. "The best thing is we can monitor the church 24/7 in high-resolution video from our computers and phones," Dan said, as pulled up live images of activities in Conkey House on his iPhone.

Built in 1882 on what was then the edge of a swampy lowland, Holy Faith has dealt with a narrative of foundation issues through the years. In 2018, the entire foundation of the nave was rebuilt, replacing rotting joists and beams along with new flooring. “We needed serious exterior foundation repairs and repointing (fill in) the joints of stonework because the walls inside were beginning to crack,” Dan noted. “The restoration folks found a pool of mud under the church. It was filled in with a moisture-absorbing engineered product that will stay dry.”



Holy Faith’s two garden areas have also had a major facelift along with new irrigation systems.

Other fixups and additions include installing an ice dam on the church’s roof that will prevent ice and snow from falling on parishioners, installing glass doors in the hallway between Palen Hall and Chancel to reduce noise during services and new wainscoting on the north wall of Palen Hall. “It’s an old church but it’s in great shape,” Dan said. “I’ve never felt the presence of the Holy Spirit like I have in this church.”

On the horizon this year will be a major refurbishing of the Sacristy, a project that’s moved slower than expected due to pandemic supply side delays.

If there is a crown jewel in Holy Faith’s capital improvement it is the new state-of-the-art streaming video capability and digital studio (see next story for more details) that can cover all aspects of worship service, a move that puts the church in the vanguard of our YouTube Ministry.



Dan is particularly pleased with the fact that the planned 21 projects so far have come in under its allocated budget of \$270,000!

Dan, a former band director and school principal in Texas before his retirement, said the vestry was steadfast in its determination to do the job properly. “Yes, it’s serious money,” he said. “But we asked ourselves, if you don’t have the time to do it right, when will you have the time to do it over?”

For Dan’s tireless role in overseeing multiple projects, he admits that he surprised even himself. And it gave him pandemic relief from sheltering place, playing classical guitar and talking to Max, his mini-Golden doodle.

“When Fr. Robin asked me to be the junior warden, I really did not feel qualified,” he said. “I was living alone with nothing much to do. Then, I had plenty to do. It’s turned out to be a real blessing.”

EXPANDING BEYOND THE WALLS OF HOLY FAITH

STORY BY MARK CHILDERS AS TOLD TO JANET SANDERS, PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES VAUGHAN

God's blessings may arrive at unexpected times and in surprising ways. One "make do" response to the COVID-19 pandemic has produced ongoing and unforeseen yet welcome expansions both of Holy Faith's outreach beyond its sanctuary and of worshippers' experience of the presence of Christ during familiar liturgies.

When in-person services were first severely limited, Holy Faith's leadership scrambled for workarounds to share worship services with parishioners. Initially, a camera and basic equipment were rented locally while clergy, Mark Childers and "Camera Ken" Duran had quick learning curves to get video transmission up and running. As realization hit that attendance restrictions would not be short-term and our single camera and jury-rigged sound system were not adequate, it was clear that investment in permanent equipment was needed to provide a more flexible, less obtrusive and better aesthetic and spiritual experience.

Mark met with representatives of Video Magic about what was possible. At that time, the National Cathedral with all its prominence and resources had the best religious live-stream and Mark told the consultants he wanted to do what it was doing "but better." The Cathedral's towering columns allowed live videographers to perch partially hidden on several tall pedestals. As that was impossible in our nave, we needed to turn to remote-controlled cameras.

While Video Magic researched equipment, Mark went through each liturgy we use and made storyboards of what camera view would be best at every point of every service — from zooming along with the procession from doorway to altar Sunday morning to a close-up of the creche on Christmas. That planning and collaboration resulted in six unobtrusive cameras high above the sanctuary, one in the chapel and a final roving camera on a 75-foot tether used for shots outdoors and in Palen Hall. Have you spotted the six sanctuary cameras from your place in a pew? One's over the front door, two more are stationed on both sides of the nave, two others are tucked on either side of the organ pipes and a last one is nestled in the canopy of the pulpit.

The control board for the system is secured in a former storage closet outside the acolytes' robing room. Despite its small footprint and modest investment (approximately \$30,000) Holy Faith's video set-up is better than some professional video studios and produces an exceptional worship experience. A large monitor shows views from every camera, plus the current camera's live shot and the pre-programmed "next camera/next shot" as cued by a detailed liturgy script Mark prepared and pre-programmed into the system. A joystick and buttons on two consoles activated by the operator control the cameras.

Expanding their Holy Faith ministries, video and computer veterans Ken Duran and Marty Buchsbaum (pictured right with Dan Green), supplemented by four Holy Faith acolytes, are trained to operate the system. After an orientation session on technical aspects, including signing on to YouTube and typing captions, Mark recorded each one working the cameras in a simulated service, then reviewed their simulations with them. Other than a few unintentionally fast "zooms" providing a visual approximation of a roller-coaster ride through the chancel and apse, our streams have been remarkably glitch-free.

Anglo-Catholic Episcopal liturgy stimulates all senses with "smells and bells," physical movement, glorious music, colorful vestments, symbolic architecture and art. The challenge for Holy Faith's clergy and video team members is to not just televise the service but to use the video medium to communicate the liturgy's meaning, majesty and beauty and to inspire in worshippers — wherever they might be — the experience of being in the presence of and in unity with the Body of Christ.



This video ministry will not wane along with the pandemic. Holy Faith's Eucharistic outreach now extends to people from coast to coast and internationally, and its compassionate pastoral and loving sacramental rites such as funerals and weddings now are expanded to include friends and family otherwise separated by distance and circumstance — truly a blessing from God to our own parishioners and to many others.

HOLY FAITHERS HAVE TALENT (YES, WE DO)

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY FR. JIM GORDON, LORA MORTON, JANICE MCANINCH AND SIMON MOSTERT

Holy Faith parishioners have talent — artistic talent. If you doubt it, just walk into Palen Hall in the next few months and take a look.

Painter and sculptor Carolyn Gentry (paintings at right) led off Holy Faith's artist series in January to wonderful comments — and some commissions.

"The compliments made me feel like maybe what I do matters, and hearing that is important for all of us," she said.

"Plus," she said, "I think it's good now and then now and then to inject something new into the church."



Lora Morton (work, pictured left) is currently showing her pottery in Palen.

"There are so many variables involved in making, glazing and firing a piece that you never really know what you're going to get," she said. But "showing my work in Palen Hall was a way to get out of my comfort zone and to interact with more parishioners. It's been really fun and I'm happy I did it."

March will be the month for Janice McAninch (work, pictured right), who does baby quilts, wall hangings and fused glass pieces. Janice said she was thankful for the opportunity to show her work

at Holy Faith, adding, "I hope others get excited about doing it."

When Simon Mostert (work, pictured below) and his wife retired to Santa Fe in 1991, his first thought was to find a hobby ("I don't play golf and I can only hike so much," he said).



"On a trip to the Spanish Market," Simon remembered, "I became interested in the Santos that were displayed. I decided to try my hand at carving one. Without experience, I set out on this journey."

In time, the journey resulted in beautiful works, including one that graces Conkey House behind the reception desk.

After mastering carving and painting Santos, Simon turned to silver smithing and jewelry, which also will be displayed in Palen at some point.

Displaying their abilities is a good thing for the artists of Holy Faith — but not just for them. "I have always heard of the tremendous artistic talent of so many Holy Faith parishioners," Fr. Robin Dodge, rector, said, "and now to be able to see those gifts and share them with the parish is a blessing to us all."



NOW, WHERE WAS I: A LENTEN REMINDER

STORY BY MARTY BUCHSBAUM AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAMES OVERTON,

Ever been distracted? You drop what you are doing to answer the telephone. Your child wanders off in the supermarket. Sometimes it takes a moment to get back on track, and so the Holy Faith clergy, staff and an untold number of volunteers are working hard to “return to our regularly scheduled (Lenten) program.”

Children’s adventures return on March 1 as our youth are invited to join our clergy and Mark Childers, director of liturgy and music, as they burn palms and prepare ashes for imposition at our three services on Ash Wednesday, March 2 (7 am, noon and 6 pm). Ash Wednesday will also see a new outreach for the disposition of ashes on the Plaza, “Ashes to Go”; see the article in this issue for more information.

Soup Suppers return on March 9 at 5:45 pm following our praying The Way of the Cross at 5. Following supper, Fr. Robin will lead a discussion after viewing segments of “Signs of Life: Why Church Matters,” produced by Brothers of the Society of St. John the Evangelist, exploring signs and symbols at the heart of Christian worship. Families with young children need not miss out — our nursery returns from 5:15 to 8:15 pm.



On Palm Sunday, April 10, the 8:30 service will begin outside with the Blessing of the Palms at our front steps. Later, the procession to the Plaza for the Ecumenical Blessing of the Palms returns this year. We will gather in front of Holy Faith at 10:00 and process to the Plaza to join parishioners from the Cathedral Basilica and First Presbyterian Church for a short Liturgy of the Palms. We will then process back to Holy Faith for the start of the Solemn High Mass with incense around 11am.

There will be Holy Eucharist at 6 pm on Holy Monday as well as our usual Taizé Eucharist at 6pm on Tuesday.

Holy Wednesday begins with a 9 am pilgrimage to the Santuario de Chimayó; for those staying closer to home, join us for Holy Eucharist at 12:10 pm in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. In the church, candles are extinguished and our church is slowly darkened during the Tenebrae service, which begins at 6 pm.

The Maundy Thursday service, with foot washing, begins in the church starting at 7 pm followed at 9 by the all-night vigil in the chapel.

Good Friday services begin at 7 am with the Mass of the Pre-sanctified followed by meditations on The Seven Last Words from the Cross (Tre Ore) from noon to 3. Our Good Friday liturgy with Veneration of the Cross begins at 7 pm. We will again gather at 7:30 pm on Holy Saturday for The Great Vigil of Easter (with incense) followed by a festive reception.



Easter Day will feature a Choral Eucharist at 8:30 am, a Children’s Easter Egg Hunt at 10, and a Solemn High Eucharist (with incense) at 11.



TAKING ASH WEDNESDAY TO THE STREETS

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE INTERNET AND JAMES OVERTON

On Ash Wednesday, March 2, Deacon Lynn Finnegan will be joined by parishioners Pam Jones and Rhonda Black to offer “Ashes to Go,” a new approach to a centuries-old Christian tradition, on the Plaza from noon to 2 pm Holy Faith is joining, for the first time this year, a worldwide movement that has clergy and lay people visiting transit stops, street corners, coffee shops, and college campuses to mark the foreheads of interested passers-by with ashes.

“Ash Wednesday is an important day for Holy Faith and for Christians worldwide,” explained Deacon Lynn. “We take some time to remember our mortality by having our foreheads smudged with ashes and to confess the ways in which we fail to live as our best selves. By God’s grace and mercy, we can be renewed and restored.”



Ash Wednesday marks the start of the holy season of Lent, a time for reflection and repentance in preparation for the celebration of Easter. We commit ourselves to a penitential practice that includes self-examination, repentance, prayer, fasting, study, and meditating on God’s Word. Ashes to Go is available for parishioners who are still hesitant about returning to church services because of Covid-19, or who are unable to attend due to work or family commitments. It is also an outreach to the Santa Fe community, providing the opportunity to be part of this tradition for people who have lost their connection to a church, or have never participated before.

“The problem with Ash Wednesday is that it’s always on a Wednesday!” Deacon Lynn acknowledges. “Unlike Easter Sunday, when most people don’t work, the busy-ness of our lives sometimes prevents people from attending an Ash Wednesday service. This year, however, we are bringing the ashes to the streets with Ashes to Go.” Those who receive ashes on the Plaza will participate in a brief service of confession and prayer from the Book of Common Prayer and will have an opportunity to be specifically prayed over. “I have previously participated in Ashes to Go in Los Alamos,” Deacon Lynn said. “It is a powerful opportunity to witness to God’s mercy and love. People are hungry for a moment of prayer, grace, and renewal. Those that come are always so grateful!”



Holy Faith will have its regular Ash Wednesday services March 2nd at 7 am, 12 pm and 6 pm. For more information about Ashes to Go, contact Deacon Lynn or the website for the Ashes to Go movement at www.AshesToGo.org.

TALK BY KENT GRUBBS: THE PILGRIM'S WAY

STORY BY LORA MORTON AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY KENT GRUBBS

Kent's third library talk was a celebration of sorts—after two of them via Zoom, we were finally able to meet in Palen Hall, in person, for a power point presentation of the important sites associated with the Celtic mission begun by St. Patrick in 432, complimented by Kent's beautiful photography. He will soon gift the library with a book about these travels, as he has done after his other two pilgrimage talks. About three dozen people attended, and Kent said this was much better than seeing our faces in small squares on a computer screen even though we were wearing masks.



We followed two trips that Kent and Kaki took, in 2015 and 2019, sponsored by their former church in Houston. The talk began with a slide and caption: Is Irish civilization an oxymoron? Well, not when you learn how monasteries and clerics were instrumental in educating the people of the British Isles. Christianity seemed to fit in comfortably with the Irish respect for mystery and magic, traditions and superstition. Celtic Christianity was so successful because the monks could relate Gospel stories to people “where they lived” and build on their preexisting beliefs.

The early Celtic church, in the fifth and sixth centuries, had a rural monastic base with monks in authority, and they developed a unique form of worship. The six characteristics of it included a love and respect for the natural world; there was an essential goodness to creation, where God resided. There was a love of learning, as displayed in the great monastic centers. A love of exploration was exemplified in Brendan the Navigator, seeking other lands for spiritual growth and following an inner calling to travel with God. There was also a love of silence and solitude. This early church had a unique understanding of time; the present contained both the past and the seeds of the future. And finally, God was present in everyday life; He could be found in the here and now, and there was no separation between praying and living.

This unique appreciation for time led Kent to talk about a “thin place” which he has felt on other pilgrimages. It's where the spiritual atmosphere of a location makes it easier to communicate with God. It's a veil between this world and the

next or even a portal, and there's a timelessness about these places.



Their first pilgrimage started with the 5,200-year-old Stone Age monument of Newgrange, older than Stonehenge and the Great Pyramids. Not far away are the Hill of Slane and a church once visited by St. Patrick. Next was Inishmore Island with its austere beauty, and last was Glendalough, the land of two lakes.

These were known for secular learning and Christian formation, and the monastic outposts grew to become Ireland's first population centers. As they preserved, illuminated and copied manuscripts, they became “Europe's publisher” and thus saved civilization.

Kent and Kaki's second pilgrimage was in 2019, to Scotland and northern England. In Scotland they went to Iona which they felt has a unique aura. “You don't go there to see something but to feel something,” says Kent. It was their favorite, for sheer spiritual presence, a “thin place.” This trip ended on the island of Lindisfarne.

In Kent's words, “In addition to spreading the good news of the Gospel, the monastic system established by Patrick's heirs created unprecedented centers of learning and artistic expression, producing some of the masterpieces of the early Middle Ages such as the Book of Kells and other illuminated manuscripts, as well as hundreds of carved high crosses still found today in Ireland and Britain.”

In honor of the birthday of George Washington, whose ancestry goes back to the British Isles, the library committee served cherry refreshments afterward.

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For more information, please visit our new website at www.holyfaithchurchsf.org.

Faithway – Lent 2022