

**WORSHIP COMMISSION
REPORT
October 15, 2018**

The Worship Commission met on Wednesday, September 26th.

The members of the Commission include representatives from the various groups critical to the worship experience: Acolytes (Paul Barker); Altar Guild (Susan Wilcox); Choir & Music (Doug Starr & Kristin Cooper); Clergy (Noah Evans & Garrett Yates); Lay Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors (Jon Delano); Ushers (Mary Rago & Mark Tranquilli); and Verger (Rich Creehan). In addition, three other parishioners are members to provide a broader perspective from the pews: Jack Horrigan, Andrea Kamouyerou, and Bob Melvin. We also invite other members of the staff and congregation to join us as needed to provide particular input.

At the next Commission meeting we reviewed the summer worship schedule just completed to consider what changes, if any, might be helpful next summer. We recognized that there is a natural tension or challenge with combining two different worship styles (i.e., you can't please everybody), but the benefits of combining the services (especially bringing us all together) outweigh those concerns.

The main takeaway from our meeting is that the 8:45 service has become the most attended service at St. Paul's with 50 to 100 more attendees than the 10:45 service. We discussed what this means for staffing and resources. Our plan is to assign a second family to usher at the 8:45 am and to add one more LEM to assist in communion. The musicians have also combined the various groups that play at this service and are trying to determine the "Top 40" religious musical selections preferred by the congregation for singing.

There was a request to the Worship Commission for our opinion on the condition and possible removal of the carpeting in front of the Altar rails in the Sanctuary which, literally, are ripping at the seams. After some discussion and examination, we concluded that something needed to be done with the preference, for the moment, to repair the existing carpet while undertaking a larger study of carpeting in the church. From so many perspectives -- acoustics, safety, cleanliness, aesthetics -- the issue of church carpeting requires a comprehensive analysis.

Last year, the Rector moved the 10 am Thanksgiving Day service from St. Paul's to the more intimate setting at Old St. Luke's. We will repeat that on Thursday, November 22. Plan to join us for a service with all the great Thanksgiving hymns!

Finally, although this is not within the purview of the Worship Commission, the Vestry should be aware that St. Paul's will be hosting the Diocesan Convention on November 9-10 and that includes a special Diocesan-wide worship service on that Saturday morning. Everyone is invited. That service is being "organized" by Noah Evans, Rich Creehan, Doug Starr, Erin Morey, and Jean Chess (senior Deacon and Diocesan Council secretary). You know it will be grand and spiritual!

Worship is for everyone, so always feel free to share your suggestions with the Clergy and members of this Commission.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon Delano