

August 11, 2024

Dear Friends,

While we all knew that George would be retiring, it was something we thought would stay nicely in the future. At least that's the way I felt. We have all been blessed to have George walk with us and lead us for these past 25 years. And what a journey we've had together!

George remains our rector through November 3rd, and we will make the most of our remaining time together. We look forward to a grand celebration of George's ministry here at St. Paul's.

Many of us have been through a rector transition before, and many are experiencing it for the first time. Please know that the transition process has changed since the last rector search that called George to us 25 years ago. I am very happy to report that The Episcopal Church no longer expects the resignation of present clergy and staff!

On August 6, the vestry met with Bishop Sam Rodman, Catherine Massey, Canon to the Bishop, and the Rev. Marion Sprott, Transition Ministry Officer. The purpose of this meeting was for the vestry to learn about the options that are available to us as we begin the process of discernment. It was noted that St. Paul's is a large, healthy parish in a desirable location. We were encouraged not to rush the process, but to recognize the opportunities and possibilities, as well as the challenges of this period. The diocesan team will be available to help at each step of the way. The vestry is currently studying the materials provided to us and will meet again August 19th to discuss the available options. We will be providing timely updates to the congregation throughout the transition process.

While we are all sad to see George leave, I would urge you to lean into the exciting possibilities that are ahead of us. We are blessed to be part of a strong, vibrant, and caring community with amazing clergy, an incredible and hard-working staff, and a laity overflowing with dedicated leaders. We are in a good place and our future is bright! I invite you to please hold the vestry in your prayers as we begin the process of listening to God's call for the community of St. Paul's.

Yours faithfully,

Barb Magee, Sr. Warden