



September 6, 2023

Dear Parishioner,

The news of Sandy and David's retirement may have 'sunk in' by now. Although we will greatly miss their leadership of our parish, we rejoice in the opportunity for them to begin a new phase in their lives.

As Senior and Junior Wardens, we have begun preparation for the transition to new clergy leadership. We, along with treasurer Charlie Waggoner, recently met with Amber Page Gehr, Diocesan Transition Minister. Amber outlined the diocesan process for clergy transition, which we have shared with the vestry. Amber will attend our Vestry meeting in October to provide additional details.

As a brief overview, the transition process differs from past years. The diocese no longer assigns an interim priest to guide the parish until new clergy is hired. Until a new priest is in place, we will rely on supply clergy to lead Eucharist, or parishioners will lead Morning Prayer when no clergy are present.

Vestry is charged with the search process, conducting interviews, and with the input from the parish, selecting a priest-in-charge with guidance from the diocese. The priest-in-charge will lead the parish for a three-year term. At that time, we may elect the priest to continue as our rector, or a new priest-in-charge is selected. The vestry is keen to begin this work and we will provide regular updates as we proceed.

As part of the search process, we provide financial data and other details to the diocese to determine if the priest-in-charge will be a full or part-time position. For a full time or near-full time position the parish is required to have a healthy budget to hire a priest with significant experience, along with providing pension, health care and other benefits to the priest and family.

All of these matters, and the kickoff to our 2024 Stewardship Campaign will occur at a parish-wide meeting on Sunday, September 24th. There will be one service held at 9am with the meeting immediately to follow. Your attendance at this meeting is extremely important! Vestry needs your input to guide our future, AND we need to have the strongest financial support possible to attract experienced clergy.

Rest assured, while the transition process is underway worship, children and youth programs, choirs and special events will continue. Join us at the golf tournament, the

Pumpkin Patch and take advantage of opportunities to participate in leading worship, being a part of outreach- try something new. In short, we won't slow down!

Also, please plan to attend our open house on September 10th following the 10:00 service. There will be food, activities for children and the opportunity to learn more about our many ministries.

In closing, this is a period of great opportunity which may at times feel unsettled. We with the vestry very much want to listen to any questions, concerns or suggestions you may have. Please feel free to contact us or a vestry member at any time. We especially look forward to seeing you at the Open House on September 10th and the Parish Meeting on September 24th.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Clarke". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Kim Clarke

Senior Warden

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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sam Dunlop". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Sam Dunlop

Junior Warden