

March 12, 2018

Dear Fellow Adventers,

At the Parish's Annual Meeting on January 28, our beloved Rector announced that he will retire on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6, 2019. This will be the twentieth anniversary of his institution as Rector. In the years since that frigid January night, we have been blessed by his presence and leadership, and have seen the Parish continue to grow into its life of worship, teaching, and service. Over the course of this coming year we will have a number of opportunities to celebrate Fr. Warren's ministry among us. In particular, the Vestry will host a Parish-wide celebratory reception after Mass on Michaelmas Eve, Friday, September 28, 2018. Our bishop, the Rt. Rev'd Alan Gates, has graciously agreed to join us and to preach at Mass.

With the Rector's support and encouragement, the Wardens and Vestry have begun planning related to the Rector's retirement and the eventual election of a successor. This is important work that requires the support and prayers of the whole Parish. It also requires the work and participation of a much broader group than just the Vestry.

To that end, the Vestry plans to constitute two separate committees. The first will be an Administration Committee, which will use the opportunity of transition to consider administrative and operational issues. The Administration Committee will be led by David Lapin, who, at the Vestry's request, has already begun discussions with Jim Wood and with the Wardens to develop a work plan. The second will be a Search Committee. That group will be charged with planning and executing the Parish profile development and search process, considering applications, and making recommendations to the Vestry regarding a candidate to present to the whole Parish, subject to the consent of the Bishop. The Search Committee, together with the Wardens, will also coordinate with the Bishop regarding transition activities.

To assist the Vestry in the process of appointing these committees, we would ask that you share the names of persons you would propose to serve on either committee. We are blessed with much commitment and talent in our Parish family, and so we expect that the Vestry will receive and consider many more names than will ultimately be asked to serve.

Please share names with one of the Wardens, Thomas Brown or Paul Roberts, or with Lynda Blair, who is the Vestry Member leading the planning efforts for the transition process. You may do so by email, phone, or in person. Your comments will be kept in confidence, but please note that we intend to contact all of those whose names are provided to gauge their willingness and ability to serve. The full list of names will also be shared with the members of the Vestry. Also, for those of you that have, or may be planning to, share your thoughts on the transition process more generally, please know that we appreciate your input; and that we will plan to share any such correspondence with the Search Committee for its consideration, unless you request otherwise.

Thanks to everyone in advance for your thoughtful and prayerful consideration of names, and for the broad-based spirit of service to the Advent at this important time. May God continue to bless the Advent as we live into the life of the Risen Christ!

Very truly yours,

C. Thomas Brown  
Rector's Warden

Paul J. Roberts  
People's Warden