

January 1, 2018

In the fall of 1996, I arrived as the interim priest. I soon became your priest on a “rent to own” basis. In the fall of 1997, the vestry elected me as rector of St John’s. Over twenty plus years, it has been my delight to be known as the rector of St John’s, and to serve you as your priest, and be counted as part of this parish family. So, it is with great sadness that on Sunday, February 11, I will celebrate my last Sunday Eucharist as your rector. After taking some vacation time, I will be officially resigning my position as of February 28, 2018.

St John’s is a strong, faithful, and vibrant congregation. You have good leadership, both on the vestry and throughout the congregation. You are living out a story that brings you into a deeper relationship with God, each other, and the larger community. I have walked with you in this journey, and now it seems the right time to make room for you to walk with someone else, and for me to take a new path as well.

The actual timing of my retirement as your rector is done with considerable attention to our common story. On February 11, we will be celebrating the last Sunday of Epiphany, with an eye towards beginning another season of Lent and looking forward to Easter. It seems appropriate for you as a congregation, and for me, to begin our new journeys at a time we read the story of entering the wilderness, exploring and examining our lives, all in anticipation of resurrection. Such journeys cannot be done without a sense of loss and separation at times, and even second guessing occasionally, but it will be faith that guides us along the path leading to new life.

This Saturday, January 6, is the feast of Epiphany. I am hoping we can all gather around 4:30 pm that night for a pot luck supper and chance to be together. I will try to answer any questions you have, and members of the vestry together with a representative from the diocese will be there as well to answer questions you might have about the process that begins with my announcement. In addition, I hope to gather with many in homes or small groups over the next 6 weeks to share our stories once more.

May God bless you, and this congregation. You are truly God’s children living in His love and mercy! I know that, the community knows that, and I hope you know that about yourselves!

In Christ Always,

Fr David