

August 28, 2009

Dear Friends,

I hope that you all have had a wonderful, restful summer. It is hard to believe that September is around the corner!

On behalf of the Rector Search Committee, I wanted to provide you with a brief update on our work over the summer and our plans for the coming months.

We had a wonderful Vestry and Search Committee retreat in mid-June, which was led by Cynthia Hubbard from the Office of Transition Ministry at the Diocese. During our day and a half retreat, we had an opportunity to come together as a group, talk about our hopes and goals for St. Mary's, and develop the foundation for our parish profile.

In July, the Committee met a couple of times to launch its work. We finalized the parish profile – a copy is included – and developed the computer job postings for the Church Deployment Office of the Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Transition Ministry Newsletter. These postings are our advertisements to the general Episcopal community about the leadership opening at St. Mary's. Additionally, in our July meetings, we talked about the overall process and named Jeff Hughes to be Vice-Chair of the Committee, ensuring that we will have leadership present at all our meetings.

You can see our search posting with the Massachusetts Diocese website at:

[http://www.diomass.org/inside/parish\\_clergy\\_support/clergy\\_deployment](http://www.diomass.org/inside/parish_clergy_support/clergy_deployment)

Additionally, we have a special page dedicated to our Rector search on our St. Mary's web site, which can be found at:

[http://www.st-marys-episcopal.org/Rector\\_Search.html](http://www.st-marys-episcopal.org/Rector_Search.html)

Special thanks go to Tricia Blank and Fyj Wheeler for lending their expertise in developing the text and graphical format for the parish profile. Thanks to Paul Pyzowski for taking the lead on making the web site functional, as well as for his leadership and ongoing work during this transition period.

With our foundation work completed, the Committee is now beginning to receive applications. During the next few months, we will be focused on evaluating the many talented candidates that we anticipate will be applying for this position. As you know, this part of the process needs to remain confidential in order to attract the strongest candidates.

That being said, we also want the process to be open and well understood. To that end, we will do our best to keep you posted on our progress and encourage you to offer up suggestions and ideas to help us in this important work. If you know someone personally or by reputation who might be a strong candidate for our next rector, please feel free to let that person know about our search and to direct him or her to our search website. If you prefer, you could also pass your recommendation on to a member of the Committee. Also, all candidates do need to apply as per the website instructions in order to be considered by the Search Committee.

If you have questions, comments, advice, or suggestions, we invite you to share them with us at church, by email, or via a personal phone call. I have noted the names of our Committee members below for your reference. We value the confidence you have placed in us, and look forward to keeping you posted on our progress over the coming months.

Peace,

Vivian

Vivian Brocard  
Chair, Rector Search Committee

*Search Committee Members*

Tricia Blank  
Steve Campbell  
Jean Dalton  
Jeff Hughes  
Martha McGandy  
Peter Ramsey  
Tom Riley  
Mike Stevens  
Ann Wessel  
Sarah Williamson