

January 8, 2009

Dear Member of St. Mary's,

By custom at St. Mary's, your Wardens serve for four years - two years first as Junior Warden, and then two years as Senior Warden. Accordingly, I will be stepping down as Senior Warden and as a member of Vestry when my term ends at the Annual Meeting on Sunday January 24.

I will probably feel a bit awkward stepping down in the midst of a rector transition, as if I am leaving unfinished business behind. However after a total of seven consecutive years on the Vestry, my children are looking forward to having me back on the third Tuesday of every month, and to not have me gone for so many "church meetings". I also know that my term ends with strong and capable leadership in place to guide us through the coming months and the calling of our next rector.

First, the parish is in very good hands with Mary Green as our next Senior Warden. She and I have worked together exceptionally closely this past year - during the three months preceding Peter's departure we talked daily. I could not have handled the job of Senior Warden without her tireless support, much of which happened behind the scenes, and I personally cannot thank her enough for all that she has done for me and St. Mary's. She will be an outstanding Senior Warden.

Second, both our Vestry and the Search Committee are doing exceptional jobs in dealing with the challenges facing us this year. The fact that this year of transition is going so well for us is a testament to their talents, dedication, and love of St. Mary's. I wish to thank them all here, as well as thank Margaret Schwarzer for her work as our Interim Priest.

I encourage you all to attend our Annual Meeting this year following the 10AM service on Sunday, January 24. This year we will be discussing some serious issues - including a challenging budget and major property projects - and it would be good to have as many of you there who can attend.

Yours in Christ,

Paul Pyzowski