

May 22, 2009

Dear Member of St. Mary's,

As you know Peter's last Sunday with us will be in just over a week. Please do plan on being in church that Sunday, May 30, at 10AM for his last service with us as rector as well as for the receptions following the 10AM service and also that evening in Wellesley. If you plan to attend either or both of these events, please make sure you have signed up on the bulletin board in the church so we can plan accordingly. And please call the church office or check St. Mary's website if you don't have the details of these celebration events.

As we move into this new chapter of our parish life, I wanted to update you on some important developments and upcoming events.

Update on the Retirement Purse

Lucille Rossignol and I want to thank everyone who has donated generously to provide a retirement gift to Peter and Abbie. To date we have received close to \$10,000, all of which will go to Peter and Abbie. Costs for all the festivities have been generously donated and paid for separately by members of St. Mary's. We are extremely grateful to all who have contributed and supported this effort to make this day of celebration so very special. Your generosity is above and beyond anything we could have hoped for.

If you have not contributed and still wish to do so, you may make out a check to St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Please write "Celebration Fund" on the memo line, so Norm Budge will know where to place it. Please send it to Denise or to the attention of Lucille Rossignol at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 258 Concord Street, Newton Lower Falls, MA 02462.

Selection of the Search Committee

At its May 19 meeting, the Vestry formally approved the following slate for the Search Committee: *Tricia Blank, Vivian Brocard (chair), Stephen Campbell, Jean Dalton, Jeff Hughes, Martha McGandy, Peter Ramsey, Tom Riley, Mike Stevens, Ann Wessel, Sarah Williamson*

The nominating committee prayerfully considered over 25 people for the search committee; many outstanding candidates could not be included simply because the group size would have become too large.

Finding our next rector will be one of the single most important tasks facing our church community in preparing for St. Mary's third century. On behalf of the Vestry and the entire parish, I would like to thank each of these people for the time and dedication they will devote to this vital task.

Parish Meeting on June 7 to Start the Rector Search Process

On Sunday, June 7, the Reverend Cynthia Hubbard of the Diocesan Office of Transition Ministry will be our guest celebrant. During the 10AM service, Cynthia will formally commission the Search Committee with the task of recruiting a new rector to St. Mary's. Following the 10AM service will be a parish-wide meeting in the parish hall, led by Cynthia and assisted by Search Committee Chair Vivian Brocard, formally beginning the search process.

Cynthia was very specific that parish youth of about ages ten and up are encouraged to attend. Child care will be provided during the meeting for younger children. And ALL can enjoy the brunch that will be provided by the Vestry.

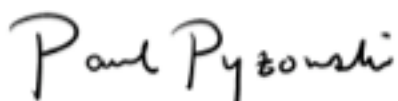
Cynthia provided us with the following information about the parish meeting:

“We have found that using [this method] as the basis for the transition process helps a parish focus on who they are at their best and thus helps them to clarify the direction in which God may be calling them to move. In Frederick Buechner's words, ‘The place God calls you is the place where your deep gladness and the world's hunger meet.’ Appreciative Inquiry uncovers that true purpose which is life-giving both to the parish as well as to the people within the parish and in the surrounding community.

“This will be a parish wide event. The process works by means of one-on-one conversations with time to feed back and reflect on what we are hearing about the parish --what is unique, where your passions are and what is life-giving. This process yields much more helpful information about the parish than any kind of survey or questionnaire and will help discern the best person for you to call in terms of someone who will have the gifts and passions you need to partner with you as you move forward.”

Lastly, given all that is going on over the next few weeks, the Vestry decided that also having the Annual Picnic scheduled for June 14 might be too much. Instead, just for this year we will have a lower-key ***Ice Cream Social following the June 14 10AM service***. This is also the last day of Sunday school for the year so our children can still celebrate in style. And of course all parish members, friends, and guests are invited.

Yours in Christ,



Paul Pyzowski