

ALL SAINTS'

Episcopal Church & Day School

Seeking a deeper life in Christ
A more holy communion with one another
A greater love for the world

August 13, 2008

Dear All Saints':

Your Vestry has invited me to join you during the transition time leading to your next rector. I look forward to this special ministry and anticipate that it will be a fruitful time for us all.

The time between rectors, usually referred to as an 'interim', has been called a 'prime time for renewal'. In parishes where the renewal has happened, the result has been really gratifying. Unfortunately, there are congregations which treat the interim period as a time-out, during which nothing important is supposed to happen, until the next rector arrives. What it will be for you, depends on you. I expect that it will be a time of renewal.

Making it a time of renewal requires us to discern what needs to be renewed. Most of what is happening at All Saints' does not need to be changed. It seems to be working. On the other hand, some things need to be done differently. Discernment is the process of deciding what is carried forward and what is to be left behind. The entire congregation will be invited into the discernment process.

It is certain that the congregation will carry something into the future. Our baptismal covenant calls us to love one another, proclaim the Gospel, and be co-creators with God in making the world a place of peace and justice for all people. Together, we can insure that All Saints' Episcopal Parish carries all of its best into living out this covenant.

I am dedicated to working for healthy congregations and healthy clergy. Forty years of ministry in more than 30 congregations has brought me to believe that healthy congregations and healthy clergy go together. Healthy relationships start with a congregation's self-awareness, discerned during the transition time. God already knows who the best person is to be your next rector. Our task is to connect with each other and with the Holy Spirit so that we get the message.

Anxiety can get in the way of discerning the Holy Spirit, and mess up our relationships. My overall task is to participate in the ministry, and oversee the functions of All Saints' Parish so that the anxiety is kept to a minimum. As we relax and enjoy our time together, the Holy Spirit can work in and through all of us. In that creative environment, the congregation can make a wise decision in the calling of its next rector. I look forward to being with you and beginning our ministry together in September.

Peace and Blessings,



The Reverend Leonard D. Evans

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The Reverend Leonard D. Evans, Interim Rector