

June 1, 2007

Dear Parishioners of St. Barnabas,

It is with great excitement and a joyous “thanks be to God!” that I am writing to you today to let you know that the vestry of St. Barnabas has voted and called The Reverend Dr. Dennis Stanley Tierney to be the next Rector of our parish. It was a unanimous vote. In addition to this good news Bishop Warner has given us his blessing and approves of this call.

Last week the vestry had the pleasure of spending four days here with Dennis and his lovely wife, Grace Grant, during a period of mutual discernment. We spent a lot of time together getting to know one another over meals and meetings. I can honestly say that within the first twenty-four hours we knew Dennis was for us. Clearly we felt this was no coincidence, but rather the Holy Spirit bringing us together. As we discerned this call we referred to our profile keeping in mind the attributes the parish at large was looking for. Dennis clearly matches all six attributes. He’s inspirational, respectful of tradition, a music enthusiast, charismatic, gracious and approachable, enjoys children and education, and is well versed in finances and administrative functions.

Currently, Dennis is serving as Associate Rector at St. Bede’s Episcopal Church in Menlo Park, California. He has an extensive background in education and part of his current ministry for St. Bede’s is with Trinity Elementary School, an Episcopal pre-K through 5th grade school that operates on the church property. Dennis serves as Coordinator of Chaplains and leads school chapel service once a week. He wears many hats at St. Bede’s and receives praise and appreciation from the Rector, staff members and wardens for his leadership and contributions in their parish.

Prior to attending the Church Divinity School of the Pacific and being ordained at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, in 2002, Dennis had a career as a teacher, professor and school administrator. He is a graduate of University of Illinois (B.A. 1968), received a M.A. from Northeastern Illinois University (1974) and a Ph.D. from The Claremont Graduate School (1979). If you would like to learn more about Dennis I encourage you to check the St. Bede’s website (www.stbedesmenlopark.org) and our St. Barnabas website (www.stbbi.org) where we will be posting more information for your review.

On a personal note, Dennis and Grace are a handsome couple who enjoy each other’s company, and will soon be celebrating their 28th wedding anniversary. While they don’t have children of their own, they enjoy spending time with extended family including Grace’s niece and her two young great-nieces who live here in the Northwest. Grace will be retiring this month at the University of Dominican in San Rafael, California where she has been working as an administrator and professor.

Dennis and Grace own a home in Berkeley, California. They're now in the process of putting their home on the market and looking for a new residence here. Over the next few weeks Dennis and I will continue to share with you more details about this transition. At this time, he anticipates being with us on August 15th.

I would like to acknowledge the Search Committee members who worked diligently over the past several months, leading us to our call. Each person on this committee worked in faith and never lost sight of the important mission they were commissioned to undertake for St. Barnabas. Our sincere thanks to: Ann Powel, Ken Fox, Lee-ann Holland, Chris Davis, Chuck Kirchner, Drucy Burnet Hodge, Kristen O'Keefe, Jerry Carlin, David O'Morchoe and Abbey Heller.

Looking ahead there are many great developments both at St. Barnabas and in our Diocese. In addition to the arrival of our new rector, The Reverend Dr. Gregory J. Rickle from Texas has been appointed to be the new Bishop for Western Washington Diocese of Olympia. His consecration is scheduled in September.

Listed below are a few key dates for you to keep in mind:

August 15	Official start date for Dennis Tierney
August 17 – 19	Vestry Retreat
August 26	First Sunday for Dennis officiating at services as our Rector
September 15	Consecration of New Bishop, Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue, WA
November 2 – 3	Diocesan Convention, Tacoma, WA

Yours in Christ,

Kathy Anderson
Senior Warden