

To my dear Parish Family,

It is a busy time these days for your Senior Warden! Things are roaring along at a steady and methodical clip and progress is being made on many fronts. I am thrilled to share with you some wonderful news:

- **It is with gratitude that I share with you that we will be in good pastoral hands for the upcoming transitional period. Vestry has called The Rev. Dr. Jan Heller to be our Interim Priest for the upcoming period beginning October 9th.** As many of you know, Jan has served as an Assisting Priest for us for a very long time. He has been a long-time member here and his family has worshiped with us for many years. In fact, Jan and Linda's daughter, Abby, was on our search committee (at age 18) when Dennis was ultimately called in 2007. Vestry believes that Jan will provide for us a smooth and almost unnoticeable shift into "transition mode" while we, as a happy and healthy parish, establish our footing without a Rector per se. More information will follow regarding how we will operate (in transition) in a future Senior Warden Weekly, so stay tuned.
- **It is my hope that our assisting clergy know fully how valued and appreciated they are.** We are so fortunate to have **Judith McDaniel, Nancy Tiederman** and **Patricia Robertson** as our Assisting Priests and **Dan Fowler** as our Deacon. Each one provides care for us that is most appreciated and valued; each in their own way brings to us their faith and knowledge and understanding, their help, their care and their reverence. It is because of their work on our behalf that our parish is able to function smoothly. Without the gift of their time and devotion, we would not always be able to hold our Sunday services as scheduled. They care deeply for us and make themselves available to us; we are so blessed to have them.
- **The Elevator/Building Committee made its second presentation last Saturday.** The goal was to hold this on a day other than a Sunday to accommodate those who could not be present on a Sunday. Additionally, the committee made the conscious effort to share the same set of information as was shared previously. **A third presentation is currently scheduled for Sunday, August 7th at the coffee hour following the 10am service, but we will be checking in with you to see if indeed it is necessary or desired.** And as always, please let either Vestry or the committee members (or both!) know your thoughts, ideas, questions and comments about this very important project. We want to hear from everyone; this project belongs to every member of our parish family.
- **Following the second presentation last Saturday, Vestry met with the Canon to the Ordinary, Marda Steedman Sanborn to learn and discuss the guidance we are to follow from the Bishop with regard to our upcoming search for a new Rector.** It was most enlightening and very interesting. We are very fortunate to have the loving guidance of Canon Marda. Vestry came away from that meeting with great appreciation for the support that the Diocese provides and their deep interest in our ability to conduct a thoughtful, careful and successful search. I will share more information with you in the next Senior Warden Weekly regarding this very important process.
- **Finally, please save the evening of Saturday, August 27th for a fun-filled (and I'm sure tearful) evening for the entire parish. We will celebrate our time with Dennis and Grace and express our appreciation for all that they have brought to us.** It is a time to 'Roast & Toast the Rector,' so be prepared for the mic to be passed around! It is going to be a fun evening and a very moving experience for everyone, I have no doubt. Besides, we Episcopalians know how to party!

- I thank each of you for your kind comments and support; this is a very busy and meaningful time for your Senior Warden! I must tell you that, with the exception of raising my children, this is the most meaningful work that I have ever done. **While it is challenging and demanding, I am sometimes overcome with gratitude for all the love that we share, the amazing people that surround me, and the good condition in which Dennis is leaving our congregation and parish.**

As always, I send my warmest regards to each of you.

Virginia Walker