

To my dear Parish Family,

I am happy to report that great progress has been made in the 'behind the scenes' work on the preparation for our search for a new rector. As required by the Diocese of Olympia, the St. Barnabas Parish Profile has now been completed and is under review by Vestry. Once Vestry has approved the draft, it will then go to Bishop Rickel for approval. Once that happens, the Canon to the Ordinary then posts it to the Office of Transitional Management website and our national search is launched. It will also be posted on the St. Barnabas website and I hope that everyone will take the opportunity to study this beautifully executed document; it tells the story of who we are as a parish and who God is calling for us.

Pending approval (which I do believe will happen timely): **On Sunday, April 30th, at both the 8am and the 10am services, the Search Committee will be blessed and commissioned; the search for our next rector will officially launch and the committee will begin their work.** It is my hope that as many of you as possible can be present for one of the services in support of our Search Committee and Vestry and one another. The members of the Search Committee are each taking on this work with a devotion and commitment to each of you as well as in the best interests of our congregation, our parish and our Diocese.

I am hopeful that we will have a new rector in place by September 1st, but we shall see. Jan is thoroughly enjoying his role as interim priest, but is now beginning to plan for "life after interim." **In the event that we do not have a rector in place by September 1st, we have put some contingency plans in place:** Jan will be away from August 24th through September 16th and Nancy will be leading us in worship on Sundays and Thursdays during that period. Additionally, Judith is very happy to help as needed and Dan will preach on the Sunday of Jan's return. And as always, Patricia will continue to provide care and guidance for our Contemplative Ministries. **We continue to be very fortunate to be cared for by every member of our clergy. Thank you to Jan, Dan, Nancy, Judith and Patricia; we are filled with gratitude for your grace and care for us.**

The search is a tremendous amount of work on the part of the committee; I have every confidence in each member of this fine and competent group and in the combination of their skills and the contributions that each member brings to the group. **This is a prayerful time for St. Barnabas; please hold the Search Committee, in particular, in your hearts and minds for the coming months.**

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

Virginia