

January 17, 2017

Fellow members of CGS:

It is with great regret that the vestry will be accepting the resignation of Pastor Odie as Rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd. At the same time, we would also like to congratulate him on the announcement of his retirement and thank him for his 30+ years of service to our community.

Not only is our parish losing an “institution”, but so is the greater Nashua community at large. While this announcement has been anticipated for quite some time, we recognize that this news will be met with a great deal of sadness for all of us as we wrestle with the sense of loss that this announcement brings. The good news is that the clergy and Vestry have been working for a long period of time in making preparations for this event. As they say, there is a plan! The Vestry has already approved the first step of naming Pastor Alanna as interim Priest in Charge, which takes effect on the occasion of Odie's retirement on June 5, 2017, and she has accepted!

Among the steps involved in the process going forward in 2017 will be for the clergy to recruit a Curate to assist Pastor Alanna for the interim period between Odie's retirement and the hiring of a new rector, as well as the Vestry forming a Search Committee of 2 chairpersons and up to 15 members. The job of the Search Committee will include the initial screening of resumes, phone/Skype interviews, site visits to candidate's home parishes, as well as bringing in finalists for interviews in Nashua. We anticipate that this process will take anywhere from 1 1/2 to 2 years from inception to the hiring of our next Rector. Further details will be made available during the Annual Meeting, as well as beyond. It is the Vestry's responsibility to make the final vote on calling the next Rector.

As a Vestry, we recognize that this transition will be difficult as we approach the month of June; however, we also recognize that both Odie and Alanna have spent an amazing amount of time and energy in preparing us for this eventuality. We hope that you will take the time to both grieve and celebrate with Odie, but also recognize that there are opportunities for new growth and celebration as we turn another page in the long history of our parish. As Odie has alluded to in his letter, his legacy will be complete if no one leaves this parish as a consequence of his retirement.

As always, please feel free to share your questions, concerns or otherwise with the Wardens or any Vestry member. On behalf of the Vestry, thank you and may God bless all of us!

Jill Rosier, Jr. Warden

Tim Favorite, Sr. Warden