



From the Rector

April 9, 2019

Dear St. Thomas Episcopal Church,

Seven months ago, the Rector of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Dallas approached me about the position of Vice Rector. Following the Maine election, Rachel and I visited the church and we were convinced that my spiritual gifts would be a good fit and that we would be stretched and challenged by this unique opportunity. Please see the attachment to learn more about this position.

Thus, with a mixture of joy and sadness, I announce my resignation as Rector of St. Thomas Church effective June 30, 2019. My last Sunday will be the Day of Pentecost, June 9, and “The Ending of a Pastoral Relationship,” with the Rt. Rev. Brian Thom presiding, will be held that same evening at 7:00 P.M. All are invited to attend (clergy: red stoles).

I have informed the Bishop of my decision and the vestry has accepted my resignation. The Rev. Canon Lucinda Ashby, the Diocesan Transition Officer, will meet with the vestry soon to discuss the transition process and talk about next steps.

For now, our primary work is to say goodbye. If we do this with thoughtfulness and intention, then our hellos in the future will go more smoothly. Please understand that after June 30, I will not have pastoral contact with members of the parish, nor will I be available to conduct baptisms, weddings, burials, or the like. In the coming weeks, I will be helping folks who have sacramental events on the church calendar to find suitable replacements. I will only visit St. Thomas Church at the invitation of the next Rector, and normally not for at least one year. These boundaries are meant to ensure that the leadership transition is a smooth one.

In the Rector’s absence, the vestry becomes the legal representative of the parish, with the Senior Warden assuming primary responsibility for the provision of worship. Georgia Stewart is ready and willing to take on this responsibility, but she has a previously scheduled trip overseas from early May to late June. During Georgia’s absence, I will appoint Rebecca Waycott, a current vestry member and former search committee chair, as Acting Senior Warden until such time as Georgia is back in the country and ready to resume her duties. Georgia and Rebecca will be ably assisted by Brad Musbach, the Junior Warden, other vestry members, staff, visiting clergy, and parish leaders.

Over the next two months, there will be plenty of opportunities for me to tell you how I have felt about serving as your Rector. But let me say this now: these past twelve years have been among the best in my life and I have learned so much about love, faithfulness, honesty, joy, and good humor from each of you. It is quite inconceivable to imagine life without you, so I can only trust that God is calling my family and me forward in grace and wisdom, and for now, that is enough. Please do not hesitate to call or visit between now and June 9th.

Faithfully in Christ,

The Rev. Kenneth H. Brannon, Rector

From the Senior Warden

April 9, 2019

Dear Friends,

We all knew this time would come eventually, but it's still sad to think about Father Ken and his family leaving St. Thomas. As we enter this time of transition we will experience many emotions—both individually and as a parish. While sad at their departure, we will be filled with gratitude for all that they have done for us at St. Thomas. They will have our support as they move on to the great new adventure to which they have been called.

In his twelve years with us, Father Ken has had an enormous impact on our parish and our community. How deeply grateful we are to him for his faithful and tireless service. He has conducted his ministry with extraordinary skill and tact. He brought dignity to the fundamental ceremonies of our lives, and constantly demonstrated his great talent and strength as a pastoral shepherd. Because of his leadership we are in a strong position to thrive as we search for a new Rector. Our parish is strong, unified, and optimistic about the future. Father Ken has helped us remember why we love St. Thomas so much. For that, we give thanks and face the future with confidence.

The transition process will be orderly, intentional, and well paced. Canon Lucinda Ashby will meet with the Vestry soon to discuss the transition process and talk about next steps. The Vestry and I are dedicated to a transparent, positive, and faithful process. I am thankful to Rebecca Waycott for serving as acting Senior Warden while I am out of the country from early May until the end of June. She and I will be in close contact to assure a smooth transition.

Our hearts are open to the exciting possibilities that this transition affords us. Please stay tuned over the coming months for special opportunities to spend time together as a community with Father Ken, Rachel, Lucy, and Isaac to celebrate and to say goodbye. We send them forth with our love and prayers and heartfelt thanks.

Georgia Stewart

Senior Warden