



*St. Mary's-In-Tuxedo Episcopal Church
Established 1887
For Mission, Ministry and Service*

May 18, 2015

Dear Friends,

One of the best known scripture passages comes from the book of Ecclesiastes. The passage begins "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Nothing human or on earth lasts forever; if we fall into the trap of believing otherwise, then we risk missing what is being offered us.

For over seven years, you and I have shared in mission, ministry and service in the life of St. Mary's. For me, it has been an extraordinary season. However, our season is coming to a close. I have informed the Wardens and the Vestry that I plan to retire as the 11th Rector of St. Mary's on Sunday, November 1, 2015. Jim and I will then be moving to Oregon to start the next season of our life; we are not clear what all that means, but we do look forward to it with excitement, expectation and hope.

Yet November 1 is over five months away. Our season is not yet over. We have a lot of things to do, some things to get in order and all the while continuing the incredible life and ministry of St. Mary's. The next five plus months will be busy; I hope we will laugh a great deal, express our gratitude to God and one another and yes, even perhaps, shed a few tears along the way.

I imagine that you may have questions about the next season of St. Mary's. Please be assured that St. Mary's has strong leadership in Senior Warden Frank Favia, Junior Warden Josh Bewlay and an incredibly committed Vestry. Guiding the search process for a new Rector will be consultants from the Diocese of New York, especially The Rev. Canon Deb Tammearu, Canon for Transitional Ministry. Deb has visited St. Mary's already and will worship with us and meet with the Vestry on Sunday, June 14.

I want you to know how honored, privileged and blessed I am to have been called to serve here as your Rector. I will always be eternally grateful to God for this opportunity. As I once heard: "It hasn't been perfect, but it has been good." I would add to that these words "It has been very, very good."

I close in the words of 13th century mystic Meister Eckhart: "If the only two words we ever say are 'Thank you' they would be enough."

Thank you, dear friends. It has been a blessed season.

Blessings,

*The Reverend Elizabeth S. McWhorter
11th Rector*

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