



Greetings, Dear Friends,

Just as St. Paul begins his epistles with thanksgiving to God for all the brothers and sisters he is addressing, so do John and I thank God for all of you. We hope that each of you had a wonder-full Thanksgiving.

Endings and Beginnings

This Sunday, Dec. 2nd, following the 9 am service, Room 2 (aka Multipurpose room)

Reception for Deacon Jim and his wife Merry Rue as Jim **ends** his long and distinguished career as a Deacon and together they are able to finally **begin** a true retirement!

This Sunday, Dec. 2nd – Beginning a new Church Year - **the First Sunday of Advent** - a time of waiting and watching - preparing for the birth of our Savior, Jesus, the Christ.

Sunday, Dec. 9 – Beginning the planning for St. Paul's calendar year 2019. This is our Stewardship Ingathering. If you have not already sent in your pledge, this is the Sunday to do it. All the pledges, *Inspired by the Spirit* to support the work done at and through St. Paul's will formally be presented to God and His blessing and guidance requested in our discernment on the use of the funds provided. The Vestry will then construct a preliminary budget for 2019 - which will be provided to the congregation with opportunities for questions and discussions before the final budget is presented at the Annual Meeting scheduled for January 27, 2019.

Sunday, Dec. 16th, following the 9 am service, in the Fellowship Hall

Reception for Reverend Lyn as she **ends** her incredible service to us as our Interim Rector for the past 3 years. A simple, catered brunch will be provided. We will celebrate our time with her and bid her bon voyage as she prepares to **begin** her next adventure.

Sunday, Dec. 23rd - Fourth Sunday of Advent – Reverend Lyn's final Sunday service with us.

Priest Update

Our Diocesan Transition Minister, Ann, still has no news about Priest in Charge candidates for us but, in her words, "we are finally settling back into regular Bishop business" after all the flurry and busyness of the Convention and election of Bishop-Elect Kym Lucas. We continue our watchful waiting....

In the meantime, we have secured supply priests for all but three of the Sundays through March 31st. Rev. Rex Chambers, who is serving as Interim Rector at St. Luke's is on call for emergencies. Pastor Rick has also offered to help as needed. In addition, we have an active group of Lay Eucharist Visitors who will be taking our love and shared bread to folks who cannot make it to church — a very important service always but especially in the winter.

Place Update

The Place Committee continues their work of putting together a spreadsheet of opportunities as we take the next step in discerning our Place. If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns about opportunities for place, don't hesitate to contact John or me or anyone on the Vestry — we are all working closely with the committee.

Up-Coming Dates to Note (in addition to the beginnings and endings above!)

- Dec 18 - Vestry Meeting 7-9:15 pm - Room (agenda available Dec 12)
- Jan 27 - Annual Meeting following the 9 am service

Daily I give thanks for all of you. As we anticipate our Savior's birth, the beginning of a new church cycle, and a new calendar year, we cannot say what is in store for us. What I do know with certainty is that we will do it together in love.

May God continue to bless us all.

Rhoda and John, your Wardens