

Epistle Jan 24, 2019

Dear Friends,

We are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Annual Meeting this Sunday (the 27th) in the Sun Room after the 9 am service. This moment in time, for St. Paul's, is indeed a unique time – especially now we need everyone's input and engagement.

God has once again uniquely blessed St. Paul's. God has given us a very special Interim Time -- a Time with no direct clergy leadership – a Time in which we must rely on one another to carry on the work of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. In our "Outline of the Faith" (p. 845 in the Book of Common Prayer), the question is posed: "Who are the ministers of the Church?" The answer is: "The ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons" (p.855). It has often been pointed out that ministers listed first are "lay persons" – that's us, friends – we are the first ministers identified. And now we are called, in this unique Interim Time, to be just that – to serve as THE ministers of St. Paul's Church – now, for this special, but short, time.

Is it a scary , awesome responsibility? Discerning and doing what God calls each of us to? Being bold enough to know we can serve as Christ's hands and feet in this moment in time? You bet it is – just ask your Wardens! But let us all remember the wisdom Bishop Tutu offered for times like this:

Our deepest fear is not that we are weak.

Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.

It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us.

We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?

Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God.

Your playing small does not serve the world.

As we are liberated from our own fear,

Our presence automatically liberates others.

So come and gather with all your fellow ministers here at St. Paul's – let's get on with the work God calls us to – let's use this special Interim Time God has granted us to work together do the work God has given each of us to do. God needs you and St. Paul's needs you more than ever.

See you Sunday,

Rhoda and John