

From: Pete Peterson

I will always remember Nancy as the most caring and compassionate person I have ever met. She seemed born with the gene to comfort those folks who were in need of a prayer for healing, or prayer to comfort a grieving spouse who lost their soul mate or a prayer over the head of a newly baptized baby. She was always the “quiet one” who just went out and ministered to her flock with no fanfare.

Then after Father Dave Thomas suddenly died in December of 2009 Nancy seemed to work even harder to keep our church family together. At that time, I was senior warden and remember many times when I would get a call from Nancy telling me that one of our parishioners had died or that there was a family in Kennett Square who desperately needed oil to heat their home in the winter. We would figure out how to help them and she would make it happen. I think over the course of Nancy’s tenure at Advent she has helped more people than we can imagine, with both physical needs as well as spiritual needs. I would compare her with Mother Teresa but she might get mad at me 😊

From a very selfish perspective I felt very blessed and relieved that Nancy finally became our Rector after working so hard to achieve her Doctorate of Divinity. She has done a marvelous job of executing her responsibilities as the head of Advent yet still maintaining that blessing of ministering to us all. Nancy has given Advent much needed stability over the last decade for which I am grateful. She has never let us down!

Several times over the years when I was senior warden or on the stewardship committee I accompanied Nancy to Kendall-Crosslands or Jenner’s Pond to help her with a church service at those communities. It was evident from the look on the faces of our parishioners that they absolutely loved the service that Nancy was able to provide and they totally loved her too. When you actually see a person’s face light up when they see Nancy you know for sure she has “the gift”.

As a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, I have always liked and respected Nancy’s consistency at having a Veterans Day service. Also, every year during her Memorial Day sermon she mentions those veterans who gave their lives in service to their country. For many years Len Bieberbach (retired Marine) was in charge of organizing the Veterans Day service. He and Nancy would always meet several times to discuss the content and format of the service. Since Len has gone to Glory, I have taken over and served as the Veterans Day organizer. It has always been a pleasure to meet with Nancy and talk about the service and what music we will have. I appreciate her commitment to keeping this Advent tradition going and I know all the other Advent veterans do too.

My hope is that Nancy and Ed will have many years of joy and fun filled retirement. May God Bless you both.