

Working with Rev. Nancy

I have been a member of the Church of the Advent for 15 years. I've seen the church go through many changes during those years. When we moved on from Reverend Michael I decided to run for vestry. The other members of vestry decided to appoint me Senior Warden. We were at a critical junction and needed some stability in our leadership. Nancy was the pillar of Advent so I approached her to become the priest in charge. She was reluctant to take on that role for various reasons not the least of which was the recent discord over the previous rector. After some persuasion she agreed to take on the responsibility of the worship leader as long as the vestry helped her with the business side of the operation. Nancy oversaw some contentious changes during her first years as priest in charge. We downsized staff, we made physical changes to the building so we could host Family Promise, decided to move church offices and other important changes. Through all of this she maintained the trust and respect of the congregation. Nancy was doing so well the vestry decided we needed her leadership and stability for the long term so we offered her the rector position. Her first response was to tell us the diocese would never allow that to happen because she only served at Advent. The vestry decided to go to the acting Bishop and plead our case. The Bishop's assistants were all against our request because it just wasn't how things were done in this diocese. Fortunately, the acting Bishop had the foresight to understand that Advent was still healing from our previous problems and decided that if we wanted Nancy to be rector she would be the rector.

As rector Nancy implemented the 8:45 AM service in an effort to attract families with children, who play sports on Sunday, to come back to the church. Before COVID this became our most successful service. I remember talking to Nancy about broadcasting her sermons; she was very reluctant, now she is the star of the internet.

Nancy is a person who welcomes everyone to our church no matter their backgrounds. She is a trusted confidant who always listens and never judges.

On a personal note my grandson was Nancy's first baptism and a member of her last confirmation class at Advent.

I am sad to see her retire but understand her reasons. She should always be seen as the rector who saw our church through some tough times. Enjoy retirement and good luck in all you do,

George James