

## Search for Our New Priest

*A note from Jim Hayes, Sr. Warden*

11.1.18

To start our calling process, our parish worked on developing the Portfolio. We on the Vestry were keen to involve all members of the parish as much as practical. We held several parish-wide meetings and formed several committees to answer the questions. I was able to stand before you on many Sundays to talk about progress and the next steps.

But since the Portfolio was completed, you've hardly seen me. You must be wondering ... ***Why? What's been happening??***

Well ... we have simply moved into a part of the process where the Vestry must work on its own. But I can tell you, a lot ***has*** been going on. We are actively engaged in the search process and I can say that the process is going well. Here's why I say that:

- The Bishop and the Bishop's office are fully engaged and actively working with us. I have met in person with the Bishop several times, and I am in routine contact with Ann Fleming, Missioner for Transition Ministry & Congregational Development.
- We have a good practical search process—organized by the Bishop's office - and we are learning how it works. It is fairly involved—to identify candidates, vet them, prepare for and conduct a face-to-face interview, and listen prayerfully to the Holy Spirit.
- The Vestry members are engaged fully. We have met three or four times a month for the last few months. That includes training sessions with Ann and meetings to organize and execute specific steps in the process.
- I personally work on the search several times a week and, during some stretches, just about every day. In fact, working on this "project" of calling a priest often reminds me of working on the Renovation Project.
- I'm sure this is not a surprise to any of you, but I have often been reminded of the talent, skill, experience and commitment to St Barnabas of members of the Vestry. We are blessed to have such a range of abilities.

And now you're thinking, "*Well if things are going well, then when we get a new priest??*" And I can only say, "We don't know." And we won't know until we get to the point where we decide to call a new priest and that person accepts the call.

In the mean time, I can only remember the statement by Ann Fleming, that we all have a job to do—namely to have faith in the process and our elected Vestry, and to pray that we all open our minds and hearts to the call of the Holy Spirit.