



## EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION



April 20, 2022

Dear sisters and brothers and friends of Resurrection parish,

It is hard to believe that I am in my seventh year as your pastor, but it is now time I announce Debbie and I will be retiring from parish ministries on October 1, 2022. My last Sunday as your Rector will be September 25, 2022. Our long relationships with parish life have been a staple for both of us since before we were married in the late 1970s. There has not been a time where Debbie has not served a church as an organist and church musician, even in her teens. I have been active in the Episcopal Church since my college days when I re-confirmed away from the United Methodist Church and then discerned the priesthood for a long time until I could no longer resist God's call.

We have both witnessed the demise of our families to illnesses and old age, and now with our son married and living far away, we want the remainder of our lifetime together to celebrate our family, to travel and to pursue other interests. We are not moving away, and I suspect that I will still be involved in diocesan ministry in some way over time. Few words can express the love and gratitude that I share with all of you. You have taught me how to be a priest in all the loving ways possible. I am a much better person as a friend, pastor, and leader because of the relationships we have forged together.

The Vestry will soon begin a search process and will need your support and help to call your next pastor. These can be exciting times for Resurrection as there are clergy seeking and searching for their next journeys into ministry. Our parish is in a good place and time to undertake this process. We are financially stable, growing with new members and visitors, and have a lay ministry that is vibrant and strong. Our vestry leadership is seasoned, capable and ready for this process.

As the Transition Missioner, Fr. Chas Mark's (St. Augustine's in KC) now serves as liaison and guide for parishes in the transition process. I know Fr. Chas personally and know him to be caring and very conscientious about his work. He will do all that he can to guide our search process to the success of a new and right fit in a person to serve as your next rector.

This is a time also to be reminded that your pastor is really a guest in this fellowship of love we call church. As ministers move on, the parish life continues in that fellowship with each other and prepares to welcome another pastor and shepherd.

I am confident that the people of Resurrection know who and what kind of pastor they desire and need to move forward into the next part of the parish journey. I also am confident the parish will not stumble in its abilities to be the Body of Christ in the interim it takes to make this call for a new priest.

Please know that our prayers continue as we discern our personal future and the future of our wonderful Resurrection Parish. I ask your prayers for guidance, not only for our parish, but also for Debbie and me.

Most sincerely,

Fr. David