



Founded 1714

St. James' Episcopal Church Mill Creek Hundred

*2106 St. James Church Road
Wilmington, Delaware 19808*

A Message from the Departing Rector

In 1972, when I was a young man twenty-one years of age, I went to work for the Federal government in Washington, D.C., and five years later transferred to an agency in Denver, Colorado. My federal career was spent in various personnel-related positions. Before leaving at the age of thirty-eight to enter seminary in preparation for ordained ministry, part of my duties was to meet with employees as they prepared for their retirement. I can remember listening to them talk with only the vaguest idea of what they were going to do when they retired. My own idea of retirement was also vague, for I had always had some type of paying job from the time I was fourteen years old. What would I possibly do with my time if I wasn't working?

Well, it is now thirty years later, and I still don't have a clear answer to that question. The only thing I am certain of is that the time has come for me to step aside from full-time ministry. As I prepare to enter the third major phase of my adult life there are some interests I'd like to pursue and relationships I want to savor. I have not always been able to be fully present to my wife, Cynde, and my five children, especially around holidays and the high holy seasons of the Church. I now have six grandchildren, five of whom live so far out west that it has been nearly impossible to spend time with them at all. (Working-age children and their families aren't available on weekdays, and priests work on Sundays.) God has blessed me with a loving spouse and wonderful family, and I would be a fool not to devote this time of my life to catching up with them.

And so, on July 1, 2019, my name on the rosters of the Episcopal Church will move from 'active clergy' to 'retired clergy.' I will no longer be your rector, and Cynde and I will no longer be a part of the congregation of St. James' Mill Creek. That is the hardest part for us, for the relationships and friendships we've formed over the past seventeen years will be difficult to set aside. We may still see you socially on occasion, or at church events around the diocese, or in stores or restaurants. Please know that we will always care about you. What I cannot do, however, is to be your priest for regular worship, baptisms, weddings, funerals, and all the other events that are a part of the Christian life. Just as I was given the opportunity to form a pastoral relationship with all of you when I was called as your rector in 2002, so now that same opportunity must be given to whomever will be the next person blessed to lead this congregation.

May God the Father, our Savior Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit be with you all.

The Rev. James M. Bimbi
40th Rector of St. James Mill Creek